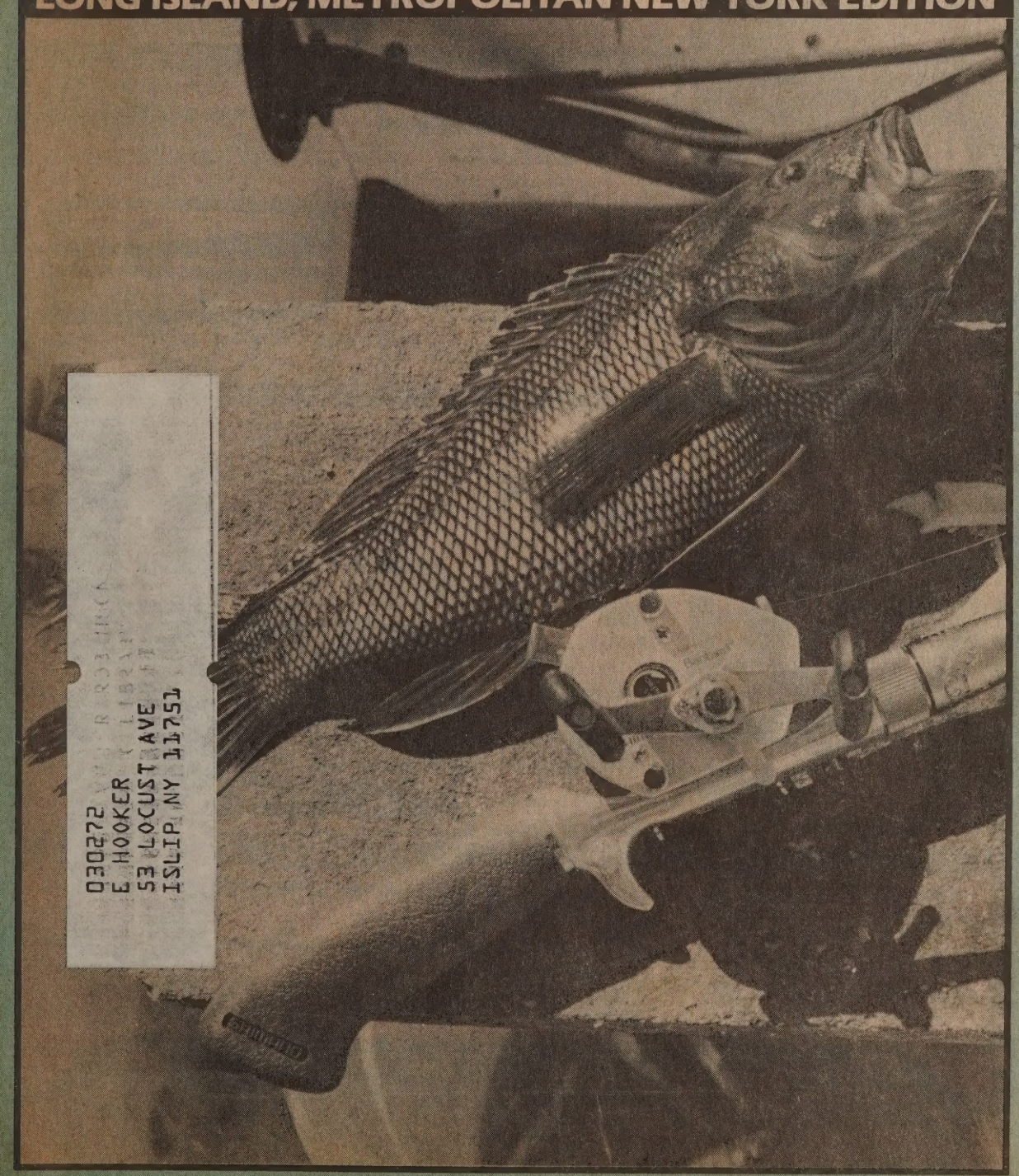
January 22nd—28th, 1987, No. 4

75¢

THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION



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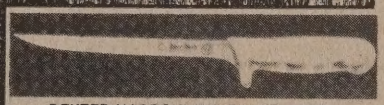

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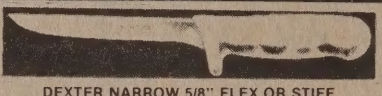

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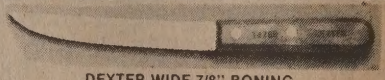
S136	Super Stainless Blade 6" Stiff	$5.99
S131F6	Super Stainless Blade 6" Flex	$5.99



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1376	High Carbon Steel 6"	$5.59
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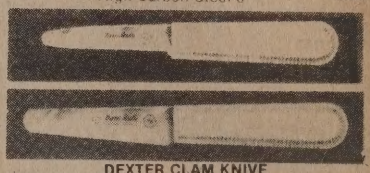
1378	High Carbon Steel 8"	$5.99



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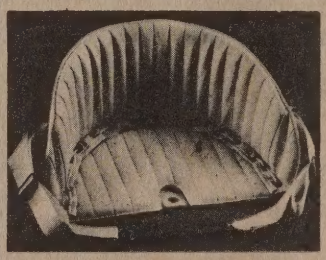

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VERUZANO BRIDGE-Parkway South to Rt. 46 West

THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

Volume 22, Number 4 January 22nd, 1987

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ABOUT THE COVER:

The past couple of seasons have witnessed a growing number of anglers setting their sights on scrappy sea bass. In this weeks segment of The Terminal End, Russ Wilson tells all you need to know about rigging for these spunky bottom dwellers.

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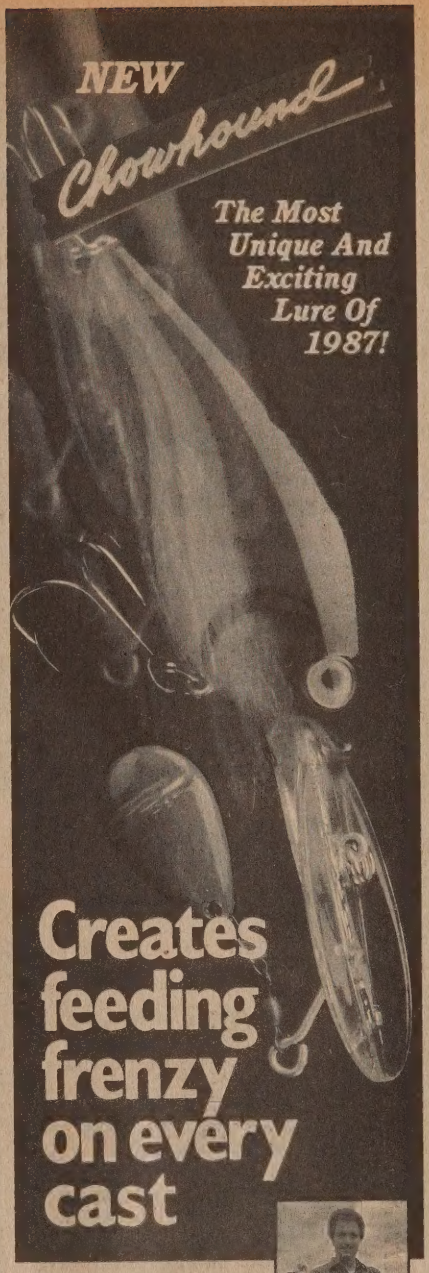

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SAFE BOATING COURSE IN WANTAGH

In the tradition of continuing to promote safe boating here on Long Island's south shore waters, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-8 of Wantagh is conducting the following safe boating courses:

Seaford High School, registration January 20, 21, and 22 at 7:30 to 9:30 PM. Boating skills and seamanship, 12 lessons with a nominal charge for course materials. First class begins on January 27th.

Bethpage High School, 12 lesson course. Registration is January 26th and 28th. First class begins on February 2nd. There is a nominal charge for course materials.

Additionally, we will be giving the New York State Young Boatsman course at the same time for those youngsters between the ages of 10 and 16.

For more information, call (516) 569-3647.

SPORT FISHING FORUM BIGGER AND BETTER IN '87

The New York Sport Fishing Federation announces an entirely new format for its 4th Annual Sport Fishing Forum. The Forum will take place on march 14th at SUNY-Old Westbury on Route 107.

Heading the list of speakers will be Darrell Lowrance of Lowrance Electronics, Frank Johnson of Mildcraft Lures, Jack Casey, NMFS shark scientist, Fred Golofaro, Long Island Surf expert and editor of The Fisherman, and Doc Grell, holder of many IGFA records.

The Old Westbury Campus has a beautiful atrium area which will house the many exhibits. At each end of the atrium is a large auditorium where the main speakers will discuss the newest ideas in marine electronics, offshore trolling lures, shark behavior, Long Island surf and bottom fishing and an introduction to the world of the Great Lakes salmon and trout fishery. Overlooking the atrium are a number of expandable classrooms where workshops concerning handling your catch, bait rigging, preparing a shark jaw mount, surf, inshore and bottom fishing techniques will be held.

Topping off this magnificent day will be a mammoth auction. Some of the auctionable items already on hand are fishing and hunting trips of all kinds with the experts; exotic vacations for two, outdoor art, fishing tackle and electronics.

It promises to be a day that will have something for everyone. Tickets can be purchased by mail for $5 by sending your check to the New York Sport Fishing Federation, P.O. Box 240, Oakdale, NY 11769.

Mark it on your calendar now: March 14th—the Sport Fishing Forum...a great way to start a new fishing season.

DISTRICT 3 BOATING CLASS SCHEDULE

With the New York Boat Show signaling athe start of the 1987 season within a few short months, the U.S. Power Squadons' District 3 reminds boaters and would-be boaters that public boating classes will be conducted this spring from Sheepshead Bay to Riverhead.

The 20 Squadrons in District 3, the "Long Island District," have scheduled the 11-week evening course in convenient locations throughout Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk. All instruction is free. There is a nominal charge to cover costs, including a 150-page student workbook. chart and other materials.

Topics covered in the course include: aids to navigation, chart reading, safe boat handling, use of a mariner's compass, marine knots, how to "read" the weather and course plotting. Ownership of a boat is not required to attend the course and it is open to men, women and teenagers.

Following are locations, dates of class registration and the telephone numbers to call for more information:

Bayside, Wed. 2-26, 8PM, Int. School 74, (718) 631-1150.

Baldwin, Thurs., 4-2, 7:45PM, Baldwin Library, (516) 285-6489.

Brentwood, Tues., 2-24, 8PM, Brentwood H.S., (516) 581-3598.

Brooklyn Heights, Thurs., 1-29, 7:30 PM, St. Francis Coll, (718) 338-3083. Sheepshead Bay, Tues., 2-3, 7:30PM, Sheepshead Bay Y.C., (718) 338-3083. Plum Beach Area-To be determined, (718) 667-5990.

Center Moriches, to be determined, (516) 281-8202.

East Northport, Tues., 3-3, 8PM, Northport H.S., (516) 266-2498.

Elmont, Wed. 2-25, 7:45PM, Elmont H.S., (516) 285-6489.

Floral Park, Thurs., 2-26, 7:45PM, Sewanhaka H.S., (516) 285-6489.

Flushing, Tues. 2-24, 8PM, Flushing H.S., (718) 631)1150.

Forest Hills, Thurs. 2-26, 8PM, Forest Hills H.S., (718) 631-1150.

Franklin Square, Tues. 2-3 8PM, North Valley Stream H.S., (516) 825-6465.

Garden City, Wed. 3-4, 7:45PM, Garden City H.S., (516) 285-6489.

Glen Cove, March date to be determined, (516) 676-7417.

Glen Head, March date to be determined, (516) 676-7417.

Great Neck, to be determined, (516) 846-2655.

Hewlett, Wed. 3-4, 8PM, Hewlett

H.S., (516) 825-6465.

Hicksville, to be determined, (516) 364-0240.

Lindenhurst, Wed. 2-24, 7:30PM, Lindenhurst Jr. H.S., (516) 957-7860.

Medford, Mon. 2-23; Thurs. 2-26, 7:45PM, New Hyde Park H.S., (516) 285-6489; Wed. 3-4, 7:45PM, Herricks Community Center, (516) 285-6489.

North Babylon, Mon. 3-2, 8PM, N. Babylon H.S., (516) 581-3598.

Oceanside, Mon. 3-2, 7:45PM, Oceanside H.S., (516) 285-6489.

Port Jefferson, Tues. 2-24, 8PM, Port Jefferson H.S., (516) 732-4536.

Port Washington, Mon. 2-23, 8PM, Manorhaven School, (516) 883-0126.

Riverhead, Tues. 1-13, 7PM, Suffolk Community Coll., East Campus, (516) 298-4512.

Roslyn, March date to be determined, (516) 676-7417.

Seaford, Wed, 2-4, 7:30PM, Seaford Jr. H.S., (516) 568-4384.

St. James, Tues. 1-27, 8PM, Nesaquake Jr. H.S., (516) 724-3699.

The United States Power Squadrons is an association of men and women whose objectives are to encourage and promote a high standard of skill in the handling and navigation of power and sail boats; and to promote the study of the science and art of navigation, seamanship and small boat handling.

1987 EDITION OF FLY FISHING

The 1987 edition of the definitive publication *Fly Fishing for Trout* now is available at many newsstands and fly fishing tackle stores throughout the U.S. or directly from Scientific Anglers/3M, its publisher.

Devoted entirely to trout, salmon and steelhead, the 80-page, full color publication contains 16 instructional articles by many of the nation's leading fly fishermen. Each one is designed to help the reader "learn from the experts" and thus become a more successful fly angler.

The fly fisherman can learn the mandatory tools for taking big trout in lakes and impoundments in Deke Meyer's *Tricking Stillwater Trout* and learn how to "turn them on" during non-insect hatch periods in Doug Swisher's *Attractors—Deadly Dries.'*

In *Light Rods and Wet Flies*, author Phil Kettle helps the fly angler "relearn" the art of traditional wet fly fishing and Harry Murray's *The 'Seeing' Game* reminds there is more than one way to spot trout in a stream. Other authors include Chico Fernandez, Charley Waterman, Bob McNally, Joel Fawcett and Mike Dry.

This year's issue of *Fly Fishing for Trout* also includes a "Scientific Anglers Fly Fishing Headquarters Directory" that lists many sporting goods stores and outfitters across the country and the specialized services they offer: fly casting and tying instruction, guide service, fishing video availability and the like.

Another special section lists free catalogs available from fishing equip-

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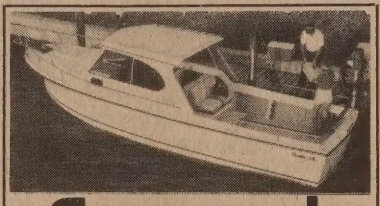

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ment suppliers and manufacturers.

Past issues of *Fly Fishing For Trout* have been used extensively as teaching aides for fishing clubs and organizations as well as for schools and colleges.

To order a single copy, $2.95 postpaid, or for information about multiple copy discounts for clubs, organizations or retail sale, contact: Scientific Anglers/3M, Department 86-8, P.O. Box 33600, 3M Center, St. Paul, MN 55133-3600; (612) 733-4751.

Year 1987 editions of 3M's other fly fishing annuals—*Fly Fishing Made Easy, Fly Fishing for Bass and Fly Fishing Handbook* will be available soon.

KIDS FISHING BOOK AVAILABLE

"Fishing Fun for Kids," an entertaining book on the basics of fishing, has been developed by the Future Fisherman Foundation. The book features Lisa and Joey who are two cartoon characters who help readers learn about basic fishing equipment, how to get started fishing, how to cast, and how to tie a knot. The book contains fun activities too, and is available by mailing $1 for postage and handling to: "Kids Fishing Fun," Future Fisherman Foundation, One Berkley Drive, Spirit Lake, IA 51360.

1987 MOON CLOCK AVAILABLE

Doug Hannon's *Moon Clock* for 1987 is now available and covers the period from January 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988—an extra 6 months of information FREE if purchased now. Hannon's Moon Clock is the only activity-time moon phase calculator on the market.

Daylight Savings Time and Standard Time are combined on one time scale with large and easy to read numbers. Its dial design permits a sportsman to align the "day" with the "month" and the calculator indicates the AM and PM (two daily) periods of excellent (major) and good (minor) fishing and game activity. As Hannon reported: "The greatest fishing and hunting success takes place when the dark (new moon) or full moon falls within the three-day brackets in the moon phase window" of the Moon Clock calculator. Field studies have shown five times greater success during the excellent periods than in other times of the day.

Doug Hannon, the "Bass Professor," created his original pocket sized calculator 15 years ago; it was readily accepted by sportsmen everywhere. Concurring with nature, he and other experts agree that lunar phases exert strong influence not only on tides, but especially the living and feeding habits of all animals. Hannon's *Moon Clock* puts this nature's clock at the fingertips of all sportsmen. The waterproof, pocket-sized Moon Clock is available at most fishing tackle stores, or can be ordered direct from Tern Corporation, P.O. Box 3123, Seminole, FL 33543. Enclose $4.95 plus 75 cents for postage and handling, a total of $5.70. This year we are including the $2.95 value "What Every Sportsman Should Know About the Moon's Effect on Wildlife" booklet with every order for a Moon Clock, absolutely FREE!

NEW DIVISION OF SEABRITE STAINLESS

Seabrite Stainless Sales Co., Inc., Neptune City, NJ, a manufacturer of stainless steel marine and industrial hardware since 1957 has opened an Aluminum Products Division on the Mullica River at Port Republic, New Jersey.

Frank Majowicz, an eight-year veteran of the Neptune City plant, will be the General Manager of the new division, specializing in the fabrication of aluminum rails, towers, arches, hard tops and ladders for boat manufacturers and after market sales.

SEAWAY BACK ON LINE

The molds and equipment formerly owned by Seaway Boats, Inc., were purchased at auction on December 18, 1986 by Custom Squares of Maine, Inc. These assets were critical to the timely reopening of a boat manufacturing company, according to a representative of the company. The new company will be known as Seaway Boats, Division of Custom Squares of Maine. Operations are expected to begin on January 5th. First shipments to dealers are scheduled for January 24th.

Seaway manufactured a quality line of sport, recreational and commercial boats. Over 1000 Seaway Boats are in used along the East Coast. The designs are particularly efficient, taking advantage of the experience the company had using the Maine hull design common to its commercial product line. The new company has reopened relations with the dealers who have successfully sold the Seaway product line. "We are particularly pleased with the response of our dealers. Our opening order position provides a very strong base to build on" explained Harry Farmer when asked about company plans. "We expect to expand our dealer family particularly along the Gulf Coast and Great Lakes in order to reach a larger part of the market. The dealers have also suggested additions to the product line and other improvements which will be incorporated as quickly as possible."

Custom Squares of Maine was formed to manufacture and sell recreational products. The Seaway Division represents its first product group. The center of operations is expected to remain in Winthrop, Maine. In addition to Harry Farmer, who will serve as the senior executive responsible for sales and marketing, the principals of Custom Squares include Gary Brooks and Raleigh C. Minor. Both are principals of the Pace Consulting Group of Hartford, Ct, a firm which specialized in assisting management of troubled companies to develop and implement turnaround

strategies. They are experienced senior managers having served with several large and medium size companies prior to joining with Pace.

For more information, contact: Seaway Boats, Division of Custom Squares of Maine, Inc., P.O. Box 338, Winthrop, ME 04364.

SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOPS TO HELP MARINE BUSINESSES

Managers of marine recreation businesses on Long Island require specialized business management skills to effectively run their operations.

The New York Sea Grant Extension Program, in an effort to assist marine recreational businesses, is offering a series of six evening workshops on business management topics designed for owners and operators of marinas, charter/party boats, boat and motor dealers, bait and tackle shops and other marine-related businesses.

These workshops will provide the small business owner and operator with management skills and information that will enable them to manage their businesses more effectively. Each evening program will cover a different topic with emphasis on "how to" techniques and the latest information on issues that impact marine businesses. The topics to be covered include evaluating advertising, liability management, marketing techniques, financial management, tourism impact and stress management. The goal of the workshop series is to help small businesses run efficiently, maximize profit and ensure long term success.

Classes will be held on Thursday evenings starting January 29th at 8PM at Suffolk Community College in Speonk. Cost per class is $5 or $25 for all 6 classes. For advance registration or additional information about the Marine Business Management Workshop Series, contact Sea Grant at (516) 246-7777 or (516) 632-8730.

BOATING SAFETY COURSE

Flotilla 11-5 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary announces they once again will render their famous Boating Skills and Safety course. This is the longest and most practical 19 lesson course as given by the Auxiliary. The course is geared to prepare the student for the new Auxiliary Coastal Piloting Course, which deals with advanced coastal navigation. The course is led by the 3rd Northern Auxiliary Public Education officer, whose staff includes former Coast Guard navigation officers, licensed captains, sailboat instructors and master engine mechanics. This course is for the novice boat person, as well as those who would like to learn more. Eleven lecture type lessons take the student from boat handling through radio telephone communication! The last 5 lessons are devoted to the table-top physical aspect of the actual course plotting on nautical charts. Upon completion of this course, the student is well versed in the art of safe boat handling. This course has all the material to prepare the student to take the Coast Guard "Six-Pac" license.

The course will start on January 27, 1987 at the Diamond Point Y.C. located in the Canarsie Section in Brooklyn. Lessons will be every Tuesday night from 8PM to 10PM. A small fee will be charged to those persons receiving materials (our brochure will explain). After graduation, two post graduate lessons will be rendered which will explain Loran C, compass calibration on your boat and how to buy a safe boat. All graduated students will receive a handsome diploma, supplied by the Coast Guard.

To register, or for the brochure, Call Harry Frankel at (717) 266-0552! Or you can write to him at 2069 85th St., Brooklyn, NY 11214.

NEW PERKO CATALOG AVAILABLE

Perko, the world's largest manufacturer of marine navigation lights, hardware and accessories, presents its 'New for '87" Catalog No. 250.

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Boats For Anglers

GRADY-WHITE 204 CUDDY

by John Raguso

A number of months ago, when I had visited the Grady White plant in Greenville, NC to test drive their new 230 Gulfstream, C.E.O. Eddie Smith, Jr. hinted that their biggest seller, the 204C Walkaround, would be going through some evolutionary changes come the 1987 model year. Sure enough, at the Norwalk Boat Show this past fall, factory representative Bing Fishman walked me through the various improvements and updates that are sure to make this popular boat even better.

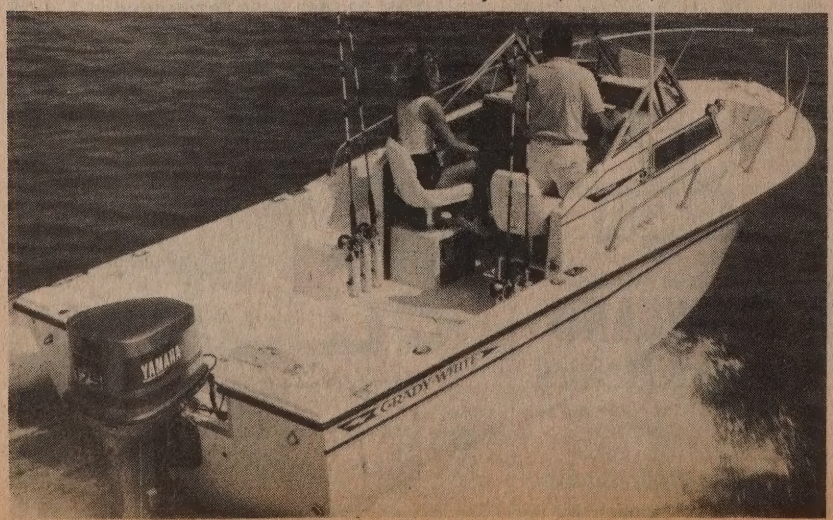
Upon inspection, the first visible change to the 204C was to the hull's forward deck and sheer line. By raising this angle a few degrees, more internal volume is created in the area of the boat's forefoot, with a deeper, more spacious cabin the net result. The interior bunks measure 76" long by 65" wide, with 54" of headroom, so there's enough room to store gear and to "overnight it" every once in awhile. There is also a niche for a Porta-Potti below the comfortable cabin cushions, and storage space for dock lines, life jackets and other gear under the bunks. Two sliding cabin windows provide direct lighting and air and a pop-up cabin hatch in the bow enhances flow-through ventilation. I've seen less room and features on many 22 to 23 footers, so Wiley Corbett and the Grady design team have provided maximum utility here.

Going topside, further improvements include a flush-mounted anchor locker forward of the walkaround deck in the bow. This minor modification actually produces two significant side effects. First, the anchor rests vertically in a special cradle to prevent it from bouncing around while under way and this innovative system precludes jamming a knee or shin on the hook's flukes, like in the case of most deck-mounted setups.

The 204C also sports a revised helm station that now features a built-in fiberglass radio box and compass pad. This new lockable electronics locker will actually store more than just a radio, as you can fit in any of the down-sized Loran C units currently on the market, if you so choose. The flat compass pad affords fishermen a dedicated area to install a 4 inch flush mounted compass out of the way, yet in plain view of the helmsman.

Moving astern, the revised transom well boasts two jump seats and significantly more rigging room than prior models to house battery boxes, oil bottles, etc. This enlarged area also includes a 40 quart fish box that can be equipped with an aerator for live bait applications.

Add to these updates the standard features that have made this 20 foot walkaround a classic in coastal regions, specifically, 100 percent hand-laid hull and deck, foam flotation, spacious 69" x 78" cockpit aft of the twin helm seats, underseat tackle storage, 24" cockpit freeboard and dual 70 qt. overboard-draining fish boxes and you can see why there are so many of these 204Cs on the water today. At 2,550 lbs., this hull is no lightweight, but that's what you'd expect from a company that overbuilds their boats like the Grady White folks have made a reputation for doing. An eight layer hull layup (5 mat/3 woven roving) accounts for much of this "beef," with a good portion of it coming below the waterline. The beam of this craft is listed as a predictable 8', but incredibly, it measures a full 7' 10" at the transom. Unlike other 20 to 22 foot boats that measure 8' at their widest part and then taper down to 7' and change at the stern, this Grady design gives you more room in the cockpit for fighting fish or ferrying your friends to the beach.



Now all this is fairly impressive at the showroom, but how does this translate to performance out on the briny? For my money, there's nothing like testing a boat on a cold, windy day to expose any hidden flaws in its character. Accordingly, I arranged for a test ride on the 204C with Jericho Boats for the day after Thanksgiving of 1986. Mother Nature lived up to her end of the weather bargain by producing a partly cloudy 55 degree day, with winds from the WSW at 15 to 17 knots and wave conditions in the often-hostile Great South Bay at a tight 2' every half-a-boat length or so. As Jericho's marina manager, Gerard Turza, nosed the Grady down the canal to the open bay, he described to me his overall impressions of the boat from a service and reliability perspective. Even though all Grady White boats come with a 3-year warranty on the hull and deck, it was Mr. Turza's experience that few of the boats sold by his yard have ever needed warranty repair work. Those that do are fixed without question as a top priority and that certainly adds to high customer satisfaction levels and repeat business.

Once out of the protective lee of the canal, Gerard handed over the helm and told me to "let her rip." The 150 Evinrude V-6 outboard responded instantly to the throttle command and the 204C snarled into the teeth of the wind and the tight chop with no hesitation. I've been out on the bay with other hulls in similar circumstances and had my fillings knocked loose, but this Grady White cut through the resistance of wind and sea with minimal bang or slamming.

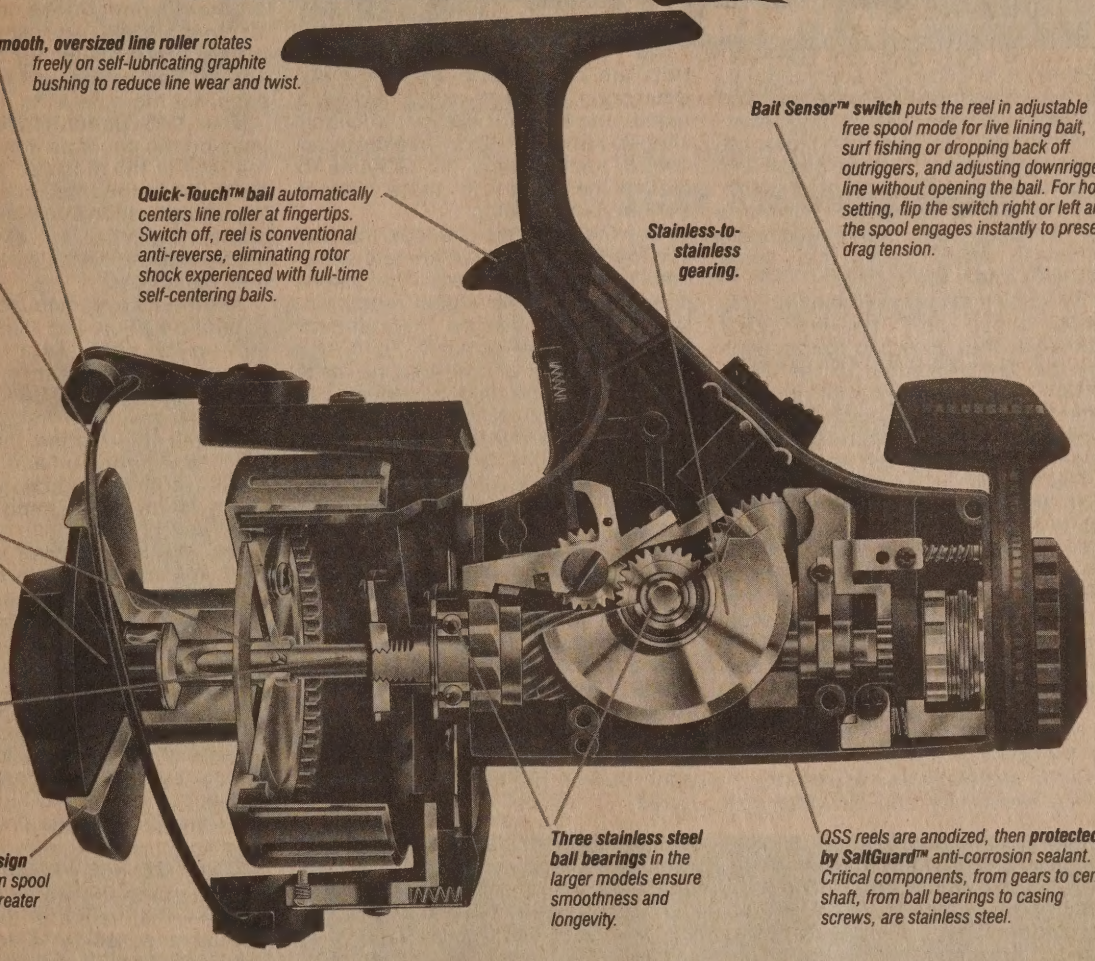
Predictably, I feel that the Grady White is a fine performer that will hold its resale value for years to come. Its list of standard features seems endless, and you will find few boats in its class that perform better than the 204C, at any price.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	20'4"
Beam	8'
Draft	14"
Hull Weight	2550 pounds
Fuel Capacity	65 gallons
Maximum Horsepower	230

Manufactured by: Grady-White Boats, Post Office Box 1527, Greenville, North Carolina 27835, (919) 752-2111.

Quantum® QSS.
Of all the spinning reels built for saltwater, ours are built for life.



Smooth, oversized line roller *rotates freely on self-lubricating graphite bushing to reduce line wear and twist.*

Bail Sensor™ switch *puts the reel in adjustable free spool mode for live lining bait, surf fishing or dropping back off outriggers, and adjusting downrigger line without opening the bail. For hook setting, flip the switch right or left and the spool engages instantly to preset drag tension.*

Patented Trip-Proof™ bail *on QSS 8 eliminates accidental closure. It automatically locks the rotor, spool and handle so bail stays open regardless of stress from casting.*

Quick-Touch™ bail *automatically centers line roller at fingertips. Switch off, reel is conventional anti-reverse, eliminating rotor shock experienced with full-time self-centering bails.*

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Oversized stainless steel center shaft.

MaxCast™ spool design *guides line away from spool lip for less friction, greater casting distance.*

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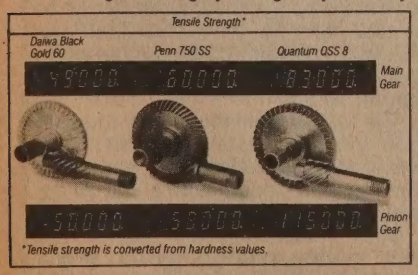
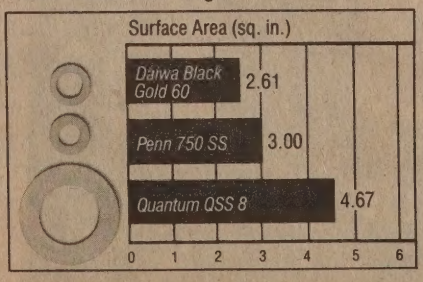
QSS reels are anodized, then ***protected by SaltGuard™*** *anti-corrosion sealant. Critical components, from gears to center shaft, from ball bearings to casing screws, are stainless steel.*

In Materials and Components, Independent Lab Tests Prove QSS is Far Superior.

QSS 8's gears are highest-grade stainless steel. Other spinning reels use brass. Or combination metals. Independent lab tests show QSS gearing is nearly twice as strong as Penn 750 SS, Daiwa Black Gold 60 and Shimano Triton 6500.

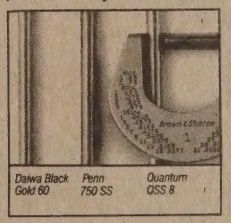
QSS 8's Magnum Drag System gives you nearly twice the working surface of Penn, Daiwa or Shimano. For nearly twice the range, sensitivity and fade-free performance. Its oversized discs work in tandem with the aluminum spool to form a heat sink that dissipates high temperatures which choke lesser drags.





Quantum's big stainless steel center shaft is engineered to endure heavier pressure than the center shafts of other spinning reels. It's larger in diameter than Penn, Shimano or Daiwa.

Stop by your nearest Quantum dealer to see for yourself why Quantum QSS is the ***only*** *saltwater spinning reel with a lifetime warranty. To compare for yourself, write for a free copy of the Independent Lab Report, Lab Report, Box 270, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101.*



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Product Review

LOWRANCE X-16

by Pete Barrett

Lowrance is generally considered to be the company that pioneered and popularized sonar depth equipment for fishermen. No, they didn't invent it, and unfortunately it took a global war to get the Navy into high gear to perfect the use of Sonar, but Lowrance did produce the first successful miniature depth finder that could easily fit into a small boat.

By today's standards the early Lowrance "green box" flashers seem crude, yet they spawned the technology that finally brought us the latest model X-16 graph recorder: a computer brained wonder machine that is surprisingly easy to operate, reasonable in price and indestructible.

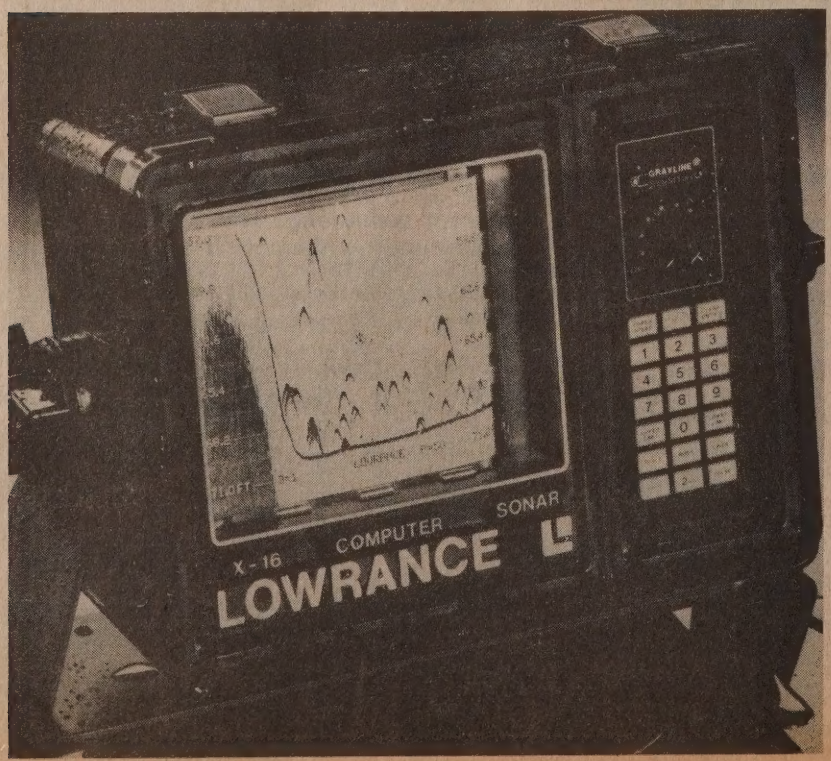
The housing is molded of high impact plastic that cannot rust and which is very rugged. I had the unplanned opportunity to drop my X-16 from the radio box to the deck, a distance of nearly 7 feet and all the housing showed was one minor scuff mark. It continued to operate as if nothing had happened at all. While I don't recommend trying this for fun, it is reassuring to know the unit is built to be tough. Saltwater has no effect on the casing and the control keyboard is sealed to be waterproof.

The Sensitivity and Grayline controls are manipulated by knobs. All other controls are managed through a membrane keypad. Rotate the center knob to turn the X-16 on, use the outer control knob to vary the Grayline to outline the bottom for more distinct bottom fish readings.

The *Disc* keypad changes the discrimination control to eliminate extraneous noise in the water that might interfere with clear signal reception. Discrimination can be programmed from 0, the lowest value, to 4, the highest amount of control. One ideal advantage of the discrimination control is its ability to minimize the effects of pulses from nearby depth sounders on other boats.

Paper speed is altered by pressing a value from 0, the slowest speed, to 7, the highest speed and then pressing the *Paper Speed* keypad.

The X-16 has a depth range from 1 foot to 1000 feet in one foot increments. In actual operation I've had no trouble getting my X-16 to read up to 120 fathoms while trolling, and even deeper while drifting at night. The power booster is required to get really deep readings, yet most of us never go beyond needing to read much more than a 100 to 200 foot bottom range.



Select the bottom depth you want to program by pressing the numerical keypads for the depth and then the *Lower Limit* key. If you wanted to use 100 feet as the bottom range, press 1-0-0 *Lower Limit.*

You can isolate a smaller portion of the bottom, as when fishing a wreck by using the *Upper Limit* key. Say the wreck is at 90 feet and rises to 50 feet off the bottom. Using a lower limit of 100 feet and an upper limit of 40 feet will expand the readings of the wreck and its fish to the full 4 inch roll of paper for more detailed readings.

The X-16 prints reference depth lines on the paper as it moves across the face of the recorder. To eliminate them, press the *Lines* key pad. Pressing *Lines* a second time reinstates the reference lines. To eliminate the depth scale numbers, press *Scale* and they disappear.

The *Mark* keypad causes the stylus to print a vertical line from top to bottom on the paper as a reminder for later reference to identify something on the paper you may want to save.

A battery backup "remembers" the last input information the next time the X-16 is turned on and this backup works whether you simply turned the switch off or totally removed the unit from your boat.

The depth scale can be changed from *Feet* to *Meters to Fathoms* by using the 2nd keypad and then pressing the proper numerical key: 1 for feet, 2 for meters, 3 for fathoms.

Paper loading is very simple and the rolls slide into place easily with no fuss, no muss. A locking pair of jaws slides out of place with the squeeze of spring loaded tangs, then pop back into place as the new roll is loaded.

Advanced operation uses other keys for Surface Clarity Control, the *SCC* keypad; pulse length, the *Pulse* keypad; and a special paper save function that reduces the programmed paper speed by 1/2 to 1/8 speed. The X-16 can be a real paper miser if you want it to be.

All the controls are straightforward and easy to remember, but if you need a quick coaching of a function you don't use a lot, Lowrance packs a handy plastic coated operations guide you can leave in the console.

The X-16 can be interfaced with a special LCI-16 module that connects to your Loran C allowing the TDs to be printed directly onto the graph recorder. This is especially helpful when locating wrecks and other good fishing spots.

The X-16 is available in two models: a 50 kHz deep water unit with 16, 30 and 45 degree transducers and a 192 kHz standard model with 8 and 20 degree transducer options.

Both models are top of the line, high quality, state-of-the-art graph recorders equally at home on any fishing boat.

Manufacutured by: Lowrance Electronics, Inc., 12000 East Skelly Dr., Tulsa, OK 74128; (800) 331-3889.

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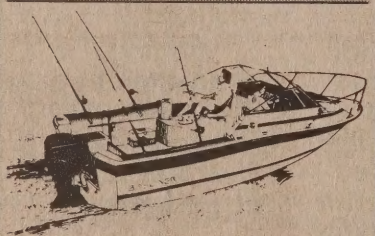

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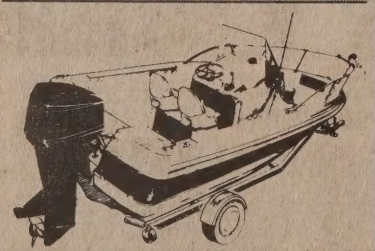

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The Tackle Doctor

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doc,

I am in the process of storing my fishing tackle for the winter. I've got loads of bucktails that have seen better days. A few have been attacked by blues and are bald; others have no paint or are banged up from smacking into rocks, and some have hooks that are rusted beyond repair. I'd like to "play" with them during the winter months, replacing those that are worth the effort and melting down others that are beyond help to make new sinkers.

I'd like to do the work in my basement but am not sure about the fumes from the melted lead harming the family. Will lead fumes bother them? Also, what is a good source for buying the bucktail hair I'll need when reconditioning the bucktails that are still usable? Finally, what kind of paint do you use when replacing the chipped and cracked finish on your old bucktails? *Craig Mangan.*

Dear Craig,

I would not suggest using the cellar as a place to melt lead. The fumes will get to you and will also spread throughout the entire house in a hurry. If you have a garage (unattached to the house) or some type of outside storage shed, you can do your melting there. If not, dress for the weather and do it outside where the air will disperse the fumes.

You can purchase bucktail hair, feathers or imitation bucktail from most any fly tying supply house. Some advertise in The Fisherman, while others, outside of our distribution area, will generally be listed in the classified section of most national outdoor magazines.

I've had excellent results when ordering through Reed Tackle. You can contact them directly at Reed Tackle, Box 1348, Rt. 46, Fairfield, NJ 07007 to request a catalog.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I just recently subscribed to The Fisherman and like it a lot. I am especially impressed with your column since it gives me lots of information that is not available anywhere else. This is the first time I've ever written a letter asking for assistance, so bear with me as I wade through my dilemma.

I do not own a boat and therefore, do most of my fishing on one of the party boats. I have tried renting tackle (definitely not a satisfactory solution), but am now interested in either buying or attempting to make a rod for bottom fishing. I'll be fishing for sea bass, porgies and blackfish as well as whiting, ling and maybe some cod and pollock. What type rod is best for this? Can I buy one of these from my local tackle shop or will I have to build it or have it custom built? I don't like the idea of laying out a hundred bucks just to buy a fishing pole, so give me the lowest price. *Alex Hartman.*

Dear Alex,

You are not going to find one rod that will cover each specific type of bottom fishing. Cod and pollock grow big and are tough. In addition, often you'll be fishing ultra deep waters for the cod and pollock and you will be forced to use very heavy sinkers just to get your bait to bottom. Blackfish (tautog), sea bass, porgies and ling or whiting do not attain the proportions that are usual with cod or pollock and you won't need broomstick rods and winch type reels to tame them.

For starters, try a 7 foot rod that is built on a 20 lb. class blank. These are available at most shore area tackle shops that cater to saltwater fishermen and sell for reasonable prices. The 20 lb. class blank will handle sinkers of up to 10 ounces with relative ease, but will also allow you to enjoy catching smaller fish as well as the occasional lunker. The 7 foot length gives you a litle leverage when fishing along the rail of a crowded party boat since with it you can reach out past other anglers' lines to keep your line free of tangles.

You won't have the ultimate rod with the 20 lb. outfit but it will get the job done and can be used for inshore bottom fishing as well as some deep water work where bigger cod or pollock are a possibility.

You'll also need a reel that is capable of holding enough line to fish deep or shallow waters. I'd opt for 30 lb. test when fishing offshore waters and 20 when seeking the smaller sea bass, blackfish and ling or whiting.

Buy a quality reel. Penn, Daiwa, Shimano and many other manufacturers currently market excellent spinning or conventional type revolving spool reels that will stand up to the abuse of saltwater and will last for years if treated with even minimal care.

You fail to mention if you want spinning or conventional but most "old-timers" at bottom fishing use the revolving spool since it does allow more line control.

If I were just starting out as a party

boater, I'd probably go with the spinning for inshore work and the conventional for deeper offshore waters or when fishing deep water wrecks where heavy line is needed to pull free from hang-ups or to muscle a big fish up from the depths. That, unfortunately, means buying two different outfits and a larger cash outlay.

I'd shy away from building a rod just yet. Today's commercially built rods are well designed, have excellent component parts and sell for less than you could build a similar product. And, if you should break a custom built rod all that the company is obligated to replace is the blank. That means you'll have to foot the cost of having a replacement custom built. With the regular "over the counter" rods you can ship it back to the manufacturer and they will replace it free of charge if the breakage is due to material failure and not due to abuse on your part.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I see from reading your articles in The Fisherman that you are a fly fisherman. I, too, do a lot of fly casting for trout, largemouth bass (bugging) and for a variety of pan fish. I'm using a Fenwick 806 (8 foot) fly rod with a Medalist 1492 single action fly reel and #7 weight fly line (weight forward floating). Most of the time I use a 7½ foot leader tapered to 4X to push my small wets, dries and nymphs. I tie my own leaders following the suggestions I've picked up from reading various articles over the years.

My problem (question) concerns the leaders. I can't seem to get them to "turn over" correctly. Most of the flies I use are size 10 to 14 and are unweighted. With the 4X tippet they should lay out correctly at the end of the cast but they don't. What can I do to correct this aggravating problem? Sometimes the fly just lands in a heap amongst the coiled leader and I have to recast, which usually scares the fish I am trying to catch.

Arthur Jennings.

Dear Arthur,

You do not say how long a tippet you are using. I'd have to guess that is your problem. Too long a tippet and you'll have the leader coiled in a heap. By the same token, too short a leader and even though the fly turns over it does so with a slap that frightens spooky trout. Try tying in a two foot section of 4X material and see if that doesn't cure your ills. If that does not do it, I'd venture a guess that your entire leader is out of proportion. You may have to modify your lengths of various size leader to get a workable 7½ foot leader. But, without knowing exactly what lengths of each size material you are now using I really can't give you sound advice. Try lengthening the tippet and if that doesn't work, drop me a note or send me a sample of one of the leaders you are using and I'll take it from there.

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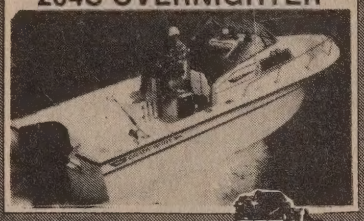

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Dock Lines

by Eric Burnley

Dear Eric,

When I turn the key to start the motor on my boat, the Loran and the depth finder go off. They come back on when the motor starts. Any idea what the problem could be?

Peter North.

Dear Pete,

Somehow you have hooked the power wires for your Loran and your depth finder across the primary wire to the starter. You must remove these connectors and run the wires directly to the battery. I suspect you used a common in-the-dash or on the console to avoid feeding the wire back to the battery. It's an easy way to hook up, but it won't work.

* * *

Dear Eric,

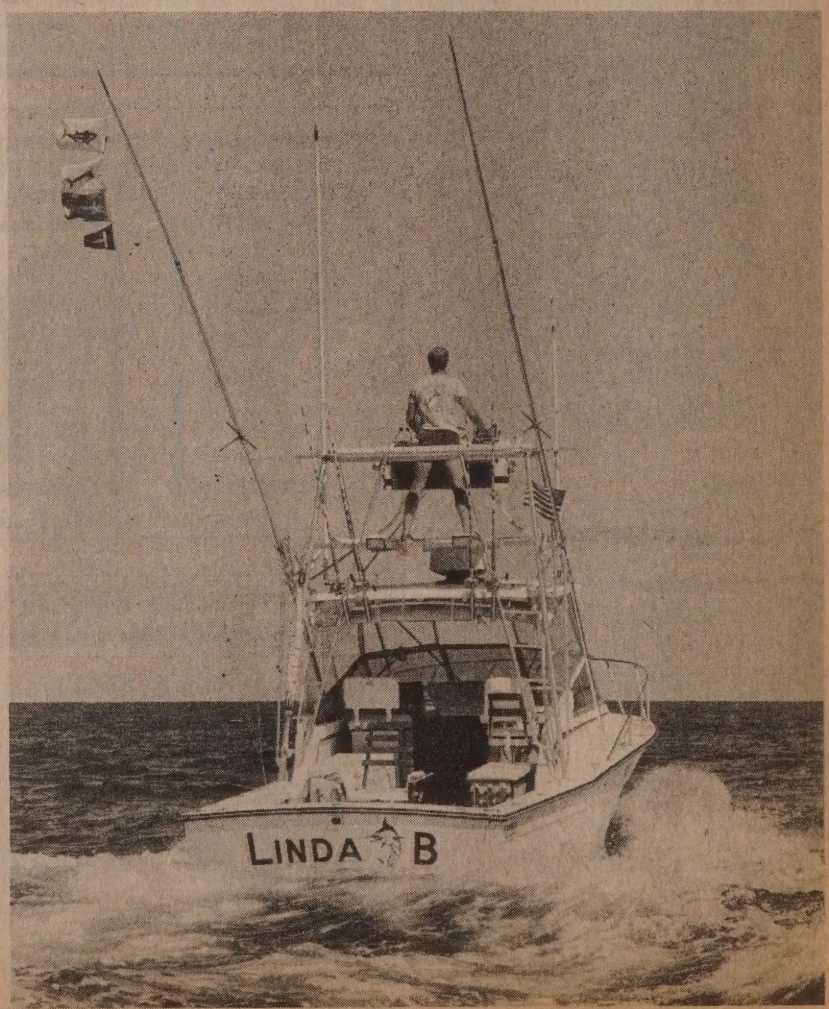
I have a 14 foot aluminum boat that is great for fishing the inland bays but is very short on storage space. I can stow my tackle boxes, coolers and gas tanks without too much trouble, but the longer items such as rods, nets and gaffs seem to either be underfoot or impossible to get out when you want them. Do I need a bigger boat or is there some way to store all my junk on this one?

Roger Cordez.

Dear Roger,

You don't have to get a bigger boat; you only need to organize your equipment. I fished for many years out of a 14 foot aluminum boat, so I am well aware of your problems.

I suggest keeping all your tackle in one box. The box should open vertically and horizontally. I used a Plano 747 keeping the most often used tackle in the drawers and the seldom



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used, but necessary equipment in the bottom.

Rods, gaffs and nets are a pain in the neck on a small boat, but you can't do much fishing without them. I stole an idea from Tim Coleman, editor of the New England edition. He used rubber holders available at your local hardware store on his tin boat. These are clip type devices that come in several sizes and can be screwed to the seats or the seat braces. The net and gaff are best stored flat on the seats. Rods cna be stored on the seat braces.

I also used an 86 quart Igloo cooler as dry storage on my boat. The cooler fits between the two front seats and will hold charts, foul weather gear, lunch, extra anchor line and a bunch of other stuff you always seem to collect.

There is no set solution for storage on a small boat. You have to modify everything to fit your taste and your style of fishing.

* * *

Dear Eric,

What type of hull design gives the driest ride? I am looking for a new 20 to 22 foot boat and I want to stay dry while I am running. *Rick Baseheart.*

Dear Rick,

If you don't like to get wet, you shouldn't mess around with boats. There is no such thing as a dry boat and if there were, it wouldn't be a 20 or 22 footer.

In a head or following sea, a deep vee or modified vee hull will cut the water well and if you have a good flare on the bow most of the spray will be knocked back down into the sea. When the wind is on either quarter you are going to get wet no matter what type of hull you have. The best protection is plenty of canvas or a good set of foul weather gear.

* * *

Dear Eric,

I'm having problems when I cut bait on the boat. If I put the cutting board on the gun'l, I am afraid it will fall overboard. If I put it on the engine box, it gets too hot and if I use the cooler lid, someone always wants to move it to get a beer out of the cooler. Any suggestions? *Russ Simpson.*

Dear Russ,

You can buy or make a bait board that sits on a pipe which fits into your flush mounted rod holder. Basically, this is a board with trim around the sides attached to a piece of PVC pipe which has been cut on an angle to keep the board flat when the pipe is in the rod holder. The end of the pipe is notched to hold it in one position.

I use a bait board that fits inside my cooler. When cutting the bait, the board is on the cooler lid, but after I have a good supply cut up I put the board with the bait on it back inside the cooler. This keeps everything out of the way and keeps the bait cool and fresh.

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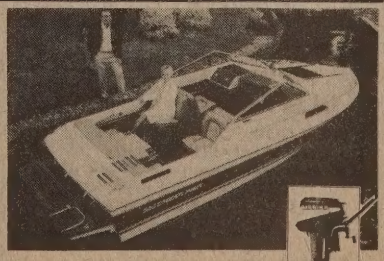

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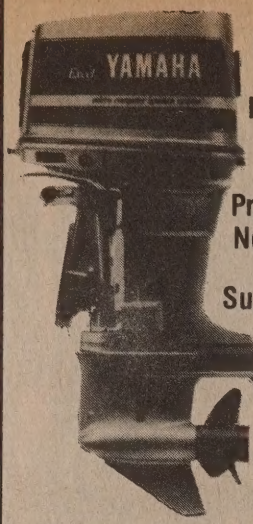

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1987 FISHERMAN DERBY SCHEDULE

by William A. Muller

In 1987, over 2,500 fishermen of all ages, men and women, people from all walks of life participated in our fishing derbies. That makes these derbies second only to the Long Island Marathon in participation among amateur sports events.

The generous and enthusiastic response to these fishing contests reflects several key facts. First, people have fun at these events. Second, we've tried to give each contestant at least their $5 feet back in fishing line and other giveaways. Third, we've gotten a lot of feedback that fisherpeople on Long Island appreciate the projects that have been funded by the Fund. Oh yes, the entry fee goes to The Fisherman Sport Fishing Fund. This is a non-profit fund whose purpose is to support worthwhile projects related to recreational fishing on Long Island. These projects can provide more access, offer a convenience to fishermen, enhance fishing opportunities, support key research, or any of a variety of other approaches.

In 1986, the Fund had accumulated enough money to begin supporting such projects. In June, we supported the Long Island Beach Buggy Association in constructing new parking access for four wheel drive vehicles at Gilgo, which solved a long-standing problem. A recent severe storm damaged that facility and its repair will likely be supported by the Fund this year. The Fund also paid for the construction of three fish cleaning stations: two at the Jones Beach piers and one at Captree. We received lots of positive feedback about these stations. Third, the Fund has agreed to finance the towing of a barge to the site of the Iberia wreck. The barge will be sunk and thus an important addition to the wreck will have been made and this should enhance fishing for bottom species and perhaps nekton predators as well. Unfortunately, the barge was not towed and sunk in the fall of 1986 because of bad weather. However, the Fund is working on this project with the Long Island Divers Association and its president, Edith Hoffman assures us that the project will be completed in the spring of 1987.

We wish to thank those who have sent in donations to the Fund, too, for these contributions will expand the possible project base for the years a head.

A number of 1987 projects are under consideration. The Fund will consider all suggestions. Therefore, if you have an idea, send it to The

The Sport Fishing Fund assisted in the development of state access at Gilgo.

Fisherman Sport Fishing Fund c/0 The Fisherman.

The schedule of events remains the same for 1987. There will be two flounder derbies, two fluke events and the granddaddy of these derbies and fall classic—the bluefish surf derby in October.

There will be an awards ceremony under the tent for each derby in 1987; there will be cash awards for first, second, and third place winners ($500, $250, $100). There will be tackle and equipment prizes for 4th through 10th place winners. We will again have a large raffle at each ceremony. Last year we raffled off about 40 prizes at each ceremony. These prizes included some quality tackle such as reels from Penn, Shakespeare and Daiwa; rods, tackle boxes, knives, sportsman's tools, Superlube spray and gift certificates for gasoline.

I won't take a lot of space here to go over the rules and regulations. You'll receive those when you enter, but I would like to encourage all of you to read them carefully. We don't want to have to disqualify anyone, especially if it was a simple and honest mistake.

In case of ties for cash prizes, the money will be lumped together and divided equally and the 10 biggest fish only will be recognized for each derby. Thus, if there is a tie for second place, the $250 and $100 prizes are pooled and divided so that there is no third place award and each tied fisherman will receive $175. In another example, if there is a tie for third place, $100 will be divided ($50 to each) and there will be no fourth place winner. In the case of ties for 4th through 10th place, equivalent tackle and equipment prizes will be awarded.

For the Captree Flounder, Captree Fluke and Bluefish Surf Derbies you may register by either mail (in advance), or in person.

We've extended the closing time of the Captree Flounder and Fluke Derbies to afford party boat anglers a more equal chance to weigh in their potential winners. So if you are a Captree party boat regular, register and speak to your captain about your participation.

We sure hope you join with us in the fun we've had the last few years with these derbies. We'll provide preview articles about one month before each event to remind you, and there'll be ads for each derby too, complete with an entry form. We are trying to make these events so easy, convenient and irresistible that you can't refuse. If you have an idea on how these events can be improved, we'd love to hear them. Send them to me c/o The Fisherman.

One last thought: note that advance mail-in registration requires either a money order, a teller's check, or a certified check. No personal checks. In-person registration we will accept cash, money orders, teller's checks or certified checks. Again, no personal checks.

Hope to see all of you at the awards ceremony!

LONG ISLAND FISHING DERBY SCHEDULE—1987

Captree Flounder Derby . . April 11-12
Moriches Flounder Derby . . . . May 2-3
Captree Fluke Derby . . . . . June 27-28
Moriches Fluke Derby . . August 22-23
Bluefish Surf Derby . . . October 17-18

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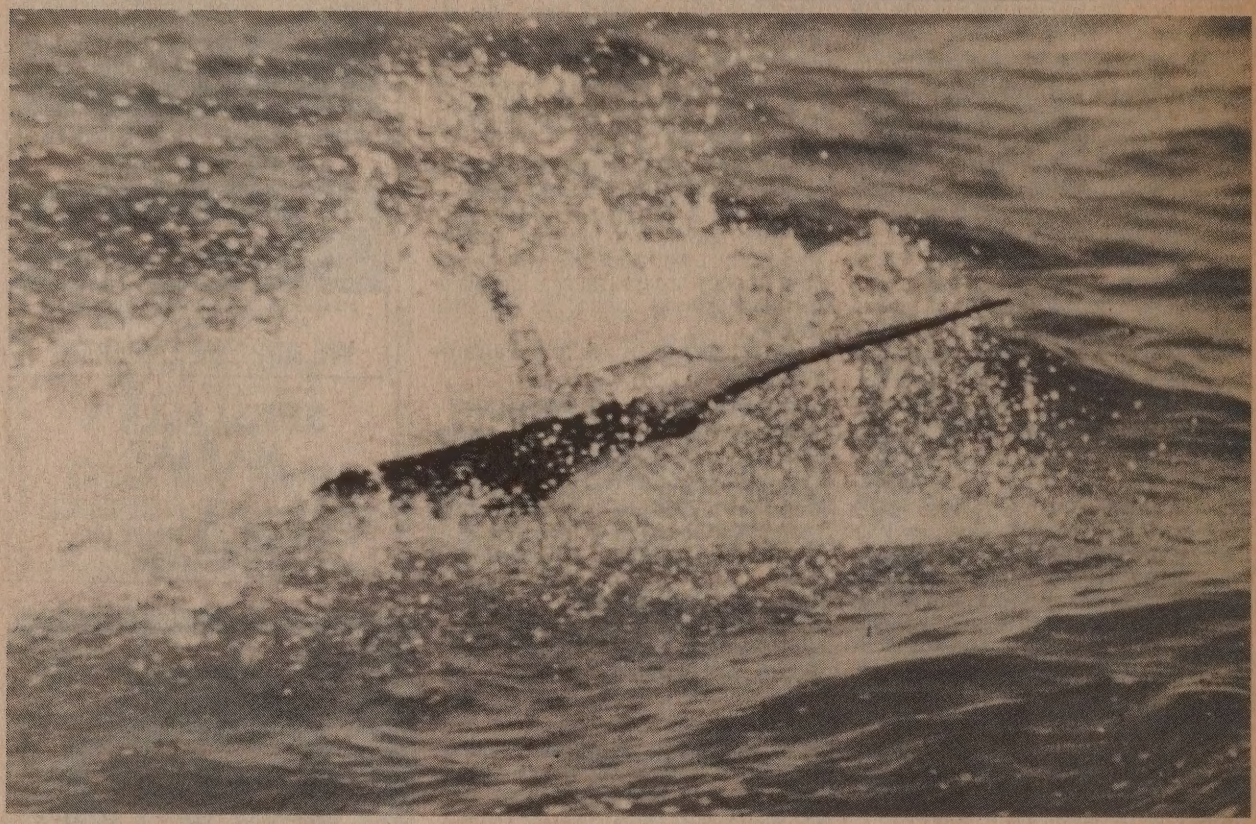
FISHERMAN TRAVEL LOG:

SAILFISH SUPREME

by Pete Barrett



"Look at him go!" yelled Captain Spider as a 40 pound sailfish went absolutely nuts a few yards off the transom of his charter boat *Marker 32.* A typicaL sized fish, it twisted and leaped into incredible aerial displays until finally it lay exhausted in the prop wash. Captain Spider reached down to grab the bill and carefully removed the hook setting the beautiful fish free to fight again another day. "Go tell your buddies I've got breakfast for them," he yelled after the fish and then resumed trolling off Palm Beach.

For sheer angling excitment, few fish can match the sailfish for speed, acrobatics and challenge. They are relatively abundant, giving a large number of anglers a chance at catching one, but despite the stories of days when you could catch several dozen, there are days when sails are so finicky that they refuse every bait or lure you select, adding to the challenge of catching these great game fish.

"Sailfish Alley" along the Florida Coast stretches along the edge of the Gulf Stream and the fish will be found in waters ranging from 50 feet to 500 feet depending on the conditions of weather and how the fish move from day to day. They can amaze you by working bait over a shallow patch inside the reef, but most times they are found on the deeper edge.

One of the best things about sailfishing is that you can do it successfully from your own boat if you trailer it South over the winter. It pays to charter a few trips with a local captain to get the feel of it, but once you have picked up the basics you can do it on your own.

Sometimes sails hit when you don't expect it! While snapper fishing off Tavernier in the Keys, I placed a live balao back off a rigger while we fished for muttons. We never saw the sail until he hit, but we did see sheets of balao darting clear of the water back in the slick. Moments later my wife was fast to a good sail. The same thing happened again while fishing the patches near Tennessee Light when another sail hit a live cigar minnow, also off the outrigger.

Sailfish grow fast. In one year they can reach a weight of 25 to 35 pounds and a two-year-old fish ranges from 5 to 6 feet in length and weighs up to 60 pounds. Fishermen used to believe that sails weren't a long lived fish, usually dying within five to six years; but current tag studies are showing that some fish have lived as long as 20 years.

The current all tackle IGFA record is a 128 lb. fish taken off Angola on the coast of Africa; but in Florida, a fish over 80 lbs. is considered very large and rarely do sails go over the 100 pound mark.

Because most of the fish will fall in the 30 to 60 lb. weight class, they are ideal candidates for light tackle angling and most private and charter boats will use spinning or light conventional tackle to gain the maximum sport.

My own preference is for 20 lb. tackle because it offers the most fun. The fish seem to pull harder, jump more and in general, give a better account of themselves on the 20 lb. line. They will also come to the boat in

much better condition than if played to exhaustion on 6 ot 12 lb. line. This is a very important consideration if you intend to tag and release your catch.

I've tried 6 and 12 pound line many times and have been generally disappointed in the resulting toe-to-toe battle. I like to feel that fish yank off line and try to rip the rod from my hands. But, it's up to the individual angler.

Rods should be on the stiffish side and measure about 7½ to 8 feet in length. Too whippy a rod blank puts little pressure on the fish and makes casting live baits difficult. Spinning reels should have a large capacity to hold at least 250 yards of 20 pound line.

Several baits work for sails, but the favorite baits will vary along different parts of the coast. In the Palm Beach area, goggle eyes are a preferred bait; while more to the south and into the Keys captains look to live balao, pilchards, cigar minnows and mullet. Live goggle eyes can cost over $40 per dozen, so I've caught small blue runners off the dock to luse for bait. They often catch just as well and they cost "zip."

Whatever bait you choose, a live tank is a must to keep the bait fresh and swimming lively. When I trailered my Mako to the Keys, we used the same Caddy Co. tank that I used for keepign bunker alive for bass fishing.

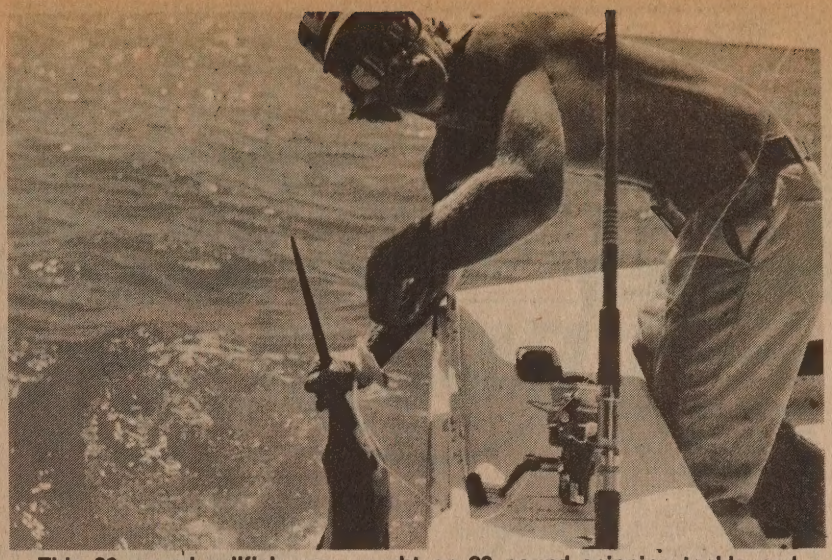
Hooks will vary with the captain or angler's preference. Some like a long shank hook, but most anglers lean towards the short shank tuna style hook like the Eagle Claw #188 or Mustad #94150 in sizes of 3/0 to 7/0 depending on the size of the bait. Your best bet is to use the smallest size hook possible.

Pilchards, mullet and cigar minnows can be hooked cross-wise through the bony part of the nose, while balao will swim best if hooked into the mouth and out the side of the bottom jaw. Other captains push the hook down into the mouth and out the beak.

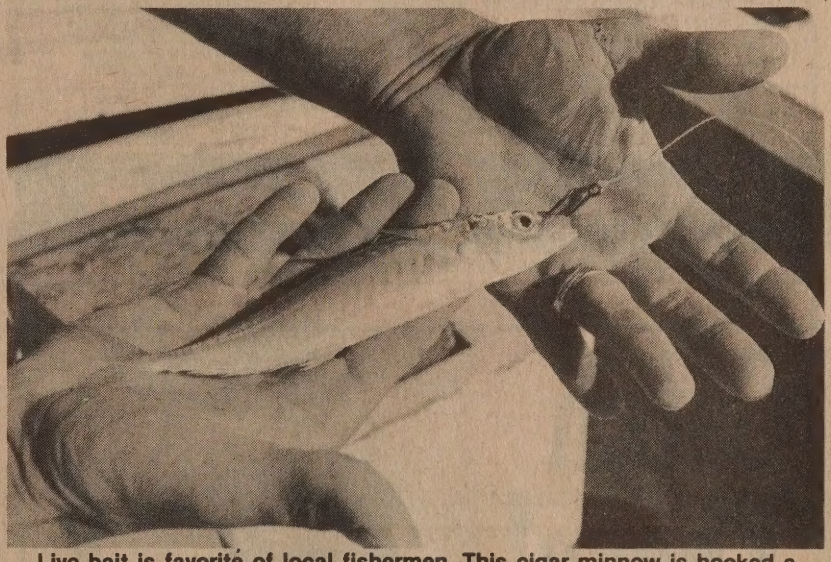
Rig the business end of your tackle with a bimini of about least 10 feet and add a leader of about 10 more feet. IGFA allows you more double line and leader than that, but too long a double line/leader can hang up in the rod guides while casting baits or manipulating the tackle. I use a Uni-Knot to attach the hook so the hook can swing free, but any other loop knot will work.

Live baits are best fished while power drifting, but they can also be fished off kites (a very effective method), but if you aren't used to fishing with kites, stick to the less exotic methods. Two, three or four baits can be trolled at distances of 50 to 150 feet back. The reels are left in free spool or with the bails open. A small piece of soft copper wire twisted into the foot of a spinning reel and bent into a hook shape above the bail will hold the line from running off the reel.

(Continued on next page.)



This 30 pound sailfish was caught on 20 pound spinning tackle and released unharmed.



Live bait is favorite of local fishermen. This cigar minnow is hooked a short shank tuna hook in nose.

Live well is important to keep balao, goggle eye and other live baits healthy for a day's fishing.

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At the strike, the wire bends out of the way, the angler closes the bail and sets up on the fish.

This method works with amazing success. If you get lucky, you may find a day when there are "Tailers" surfing wave crests in the top few feet of water. The fish are easy to see and you can run your boat up ahead of the fish and wait for them to come to you. As the sail gets into range, cast the balao, mullet or pilchard in front of, but past the fish retrieving the bait right across his nose. This is sailfishing at its best and makes for fishing tales to be long recited back at the dock.

Fishing with Captain Ted D'Esposito on the *Sump'N Special* out of Islamorada, we had a great day sailfishing with tailers working along the edge where the blue water met the cloudy water along the reef. We tagged and released 14 sails that day, broke off several more and really had a ball.

Artificial lures can be used but they catch best when a fresh bait is added under the skirt. Some anglers mix and match the baits with skirts and bubblers or run the lures straight. One advantage of the lures is the ability to cover a lot of water. On one day, the opposite of the good day with tailers, we had only two sightings of sails after nearly six hours of fishing. As a last ditch effort, we put out a pattern of six lures and began working the edge as it dropped off. After two more hours of fishing we hooked and landed three fish. The magic lure that day was a miniature green machine type lure with a strip of balao added for spice.

While trolling, it pays to keep a watchful eye on the graph recorder to keep track of the water depth the fish are holding in. You may find all your hits occurring at one depth level. Naturally, you will want to keep working the baits at that edge of the drop-off. There are days when the high side of the reef will be the most productive and other days when the deep edge will be better.

The best action can be counted during the passage of cold fronts. I've heard local captains say the approach of the front is best; others say the 2 or 3 days after the front are best. As vacationers we don't always have the luxury of fishing on the so-called best days so it pays to just go out and do it. There have been times when we amazed the locals and ourselves as we caught fairly well on the "off" weather days.

Sailfishing is a lot of fun whether you trailer your own boat to Florida for a vacation or if you hook up with a local captain. The action can be eye-popping if you get a good rough day when a cold front approaches.

Even if the sailfishing is not so great, there is still an excellent chance with barracuda, snapper, amberjack and perhaps a king mackerel. Any of which are better than freezing your butt off back up North.

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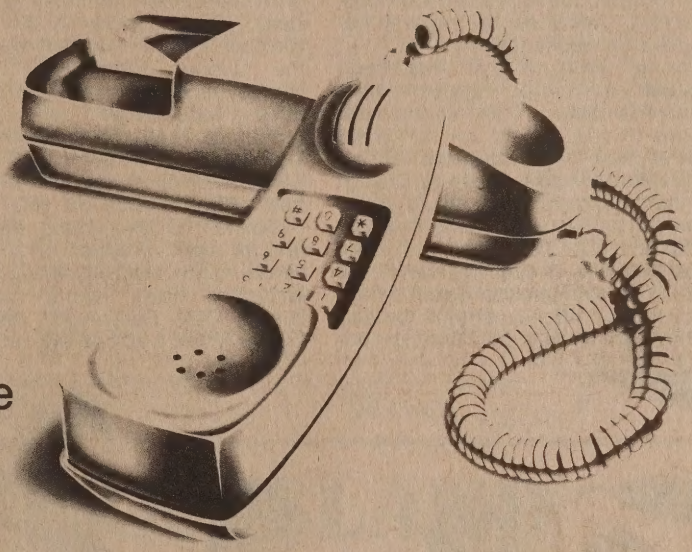

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FLASHBACK 1986

EAST END

Part One — *by Mrs. Lorry Mangan*

The 1986 season will probably remain in most anglers' memories as one during which many fishing trips were cancelled, curtailed or just barely endured because of endless winds which created hideous sea conditions. Naturally, the worst of the weather occurred on weekends!

During **January** and **February**, Montauk was closed tighter than a clam with only a few commercial catches of cod caught on set lines. Most of the winter was spent reminiscing about previous years catches at the boat shows. The late winter flounder run, usually taking place at the Shinnecock Canal, did not materialize; however, a few flounder were taken from the Quogue Canal whenever icing conditions let up. A few cod were caught in late February on the Viking's first trip of the season.

Cod catches picked up during **March**, with best catches at Cox's Ledge, whenever sea conditions allowed the trip to be made. While most cod were in the small to medium range, 30 pounders usually copped the pool. Flounder activity was best in the Quogue Canal, off the Golf course, where some anglers caught several dozen large flounder per trip on freshly dug bank mussels. Flatties started going through the Shinnecock Canal the second week in March, with best catches made on sand worms.

Codfish catches, good the beginning of **April**, dropped off drastically as the month progressed, with charter and party boats fishing local Block Island, CIA, Cartwright, and Cox's Ledge when weather permitted.

Georges Bank trips produced some superb action in 1986.

While flounder action was held back by weather in traditional early spots, continuous exploration saw great catches later in the month, with true snowshoe flounder by the end of the month, as Three Mile Harbor, Napeague and Promised Land came alive. One fish, caught on the Vivienne, weighed 4 lbs. 15½ oz. on a certified scale. Many anglers reported fantastic results using glow beads on hooks; skirts on sinkers!

May will be remembered as a month of almost constant, strong northeasterly or northwesterly winds, with anglers hard pressed to find fishable waters. While tons of mackerel showed up on schedule, they were quickly replaced by large schools of bluefish by Mother's Day. When the winds abated at the end of the month, anglers were delighted to discover that sea bass, fluke and weakfish had arrived! Early in the month, cod catches were erratic (again due to sea conditions); however, flounder were obliging, allowing charter boats, head boats and rental skiffs to fill their fish boxes, often with flatties of up to 3 lbs. in weight. By the end of the month, charter boats such as the Alyssa Ann located flounder, mixed with blackfish and sea bass, off Gardiner's Island. Good size pollock were caught on the Mistress Too on several charter trips, however, the usual May pollock run did not materialize.

South Fork anglers able to get out on the few calm days were happy with flounder catches at Napeague Harbor, Promised Land, the fish factory, Cedar Point, Petty's Bight, and Orient. Fluke and weakfish were taking jigs at the Shinnecock Canal during the first week of May, with Phil Lociceiro of Riverhead weighing in an 8 lb. weak. By the end of May, the Peconics were alive with fish. The first night weakfish trip on the Wilhelric II accounted for seven large weakfish, innumerable bluefish, huge fluke and sea bass and bucket of jumbo porgies.

The season's first tuna and a wahoo were caught at the Dip on the "Hot Potato"; the first blue sharks spotted during the last week in May.

Montauk's offshore waters came alive in **June** with plenty of blue sharks, a 700 lb. mako shark caught on the Cricket II and giant tuna brought in on the Tuna Tangler and Fish On. Although most shark action centered around uncounted numbers of blue sharks, a few makos were caught on the Montauk, Kellyboat and the Adios. Inshore, good catches of snowshoe flounder continued in Gardiner's waters along with blackfish and sea bass. Closer to Montauk, flounder were almost a sure thing at Culloden, Lake Montauk and at the Point. Many charter boats cashed in on spectacular blackfish and sea bass action on the South Side and New Grounds, with some boats, such as the King Wayne, combining cod, bluefish and other bottom species to fill every fish box or bag on the boat.

The first significant catch of fluke near the point was reported by Captain Charlie Nappi. Porgies started appearing in many catches.

The Peconics weakfish run was short lived and quickly replaced by hordes of bluefish at South Ferry, Jessups, the Race and the Middle Grounds by mid-**June**. Fluke, a few doormats such as the 11 pounder bagged by Bill Ehchalt, weighed at Harbor Marina, with an unbelievable amount of shorts, appeared in Gardiner's waters, Shinnecock Canal and Shinnecock Bay. Anglers spoke of fluke as small as 9 inches and being able to keep only one for as many as 30 shorts caught! Bayview Marine and Tackle reported outstanding catches of humpback porgies at Cedar Point in early **June**, slowing as the brown algae started to show in the Peconics and Shinnecock for the second year.

Sharks—brown, blue, mako and white, were reported by charter boats such as Sea Mist, Dutch Treat and Linesides, with school and giant tuna noted in the vicinity of the Coimbra Wreck the last week in June. Vast schools of bluefish remained outside of Shinnecock Inlet, extending to 10 miles or more ofshore.

The first school tuna of the summer were brought into the Montauk Marine Basin the first week in July. Blue shark action continued its furious pace, with many marinas, Gone Fishing, Star Island Yacht Club, Captain's Cove, kept busy weighing makos as well. By the end of the month and brown sharks added extra interest for sharkers. An increasing amount of giant tuna and yellowfins were showing up with more consistency. Finally, by the end of **July**, offshore waters were teeming with life. Bill Sweedler successfully fought the largest blue marlin to ever be brought into Montauk: a whopping 1,174 lbs., caught at the Canyon on the "Tempo." A new state record. Other canyon fishermen returned with bigeye, mako and billfish. Charlie Geller and Steven Figliozzi had two white marlin hit lures simultaneously; both were landed on the Mako Express. School tuna arrived at the Butterfish Hole, with yellowfin, bluefin, albacore and white marlin caught on the Lori Jay, Mary A and Pronto. Some giant tuna were trolled in various locations ranging from as close as 20 miles from the Point to Nomans Land!

Weakfish came into the picture in mid **July**, with many efforts thwarted by tremendous amounts of bluefish at the Point and Shagwong. Despite bluefish, catches of several dozen weakfish per trip, ranging from 8 to over 11 lbs., were reported by Captain DeMaio. A tremendous porgy population at Great Eastern, the Point, Elbow, South Side provided great action for the Little Bear, Flying Cloud and Marlin IV. Flukers had to contend with multitudes of blues vying for drifted baits at the North Rips, Shagwong and Washington Shoals. However, most flukers, whether fishing from Uihlein's Rental Boats, or charter boats such as Florence B, reported fine catches of fluke, many 5 and 6 lbs. A huge fluke of 13½ lbs. was caught by Charlie Murphy, one of the first doormats of the season.

Best porgy action for south fork craft took place around Gardiner's and Plum Island, mixed with sea bass and blackfish, with many anglers on the Wilhelric II counting over 100 porgies in their respective buckets by the third week in July. Porgies were again reported from Cedar Point in the Peconics, whenever the algae eased a bit. Flounder action remained steady, after a slow start in Shinnecock Bay, with best catches made west of the Ponquogue Bridge, near the dredge. While large numbers of fluke were caught off Gardiner's and in Shinnecock Bay (near the Inlet), sizes were small and most had to be returned. Bluefish continued strong all over.

Offshore, the charter boat M&M's located tuna in 190 feet of water, south of Shinnecock Inlet, early in July, a forecast of things to come, since by the end of July yellowfin, albacore, white marlin and multitudes of sharks were entrenched in from 120 feet of water to 40 fathoms. An unusual catch of a 485 lb. blue marlin was made on a 23 foot boat fishing for shark in 120 feet!

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THE TERMINAL END:

SEA BASS RIGS

by Russ Wilson

The black sea bass, *Centropristis striata*, is one of the most popular bottom fish among Atlantic Coast saltwater anglers. Being extremely prolific and quite easy to catch, sea bass have given many novice fishermen their first angling thrill. For many, the sea bass got them off to their start on a lifetime of fishing enjoyment.

The sea bass is found from Massachusetts to Florida but is most prevalent throughout the New York Bight. There is an active recreational fishery for sea bass from the Cape Cod vicinity of Massachusetts to the coastal waters of Delaware and down the coast to North Carolina.

Migrations occur during spring when the bass move into the shallows from deeper offshore waters. Larger specimens will normally inhabit inshore water depths of less than 100 feet, while smaller "pin bass" will frequent the coastal rivers and bays where water depth will range from only a few feet to 20 feet. In the fall, as water temperatures begin to slump, the sea bass will retrace its migrational route back to deep water areas.

The sea bass is not a large fish when compared to many other saltwater species and the average size fish taken from inshore waters will normally weigh less than two pounds. However, even though the sea bass ranges in size from small "pin bass" weighing only a few ounces, to big "humpbacks" which may top 6 pounds, it is very important to both recreational and commercial fishermen.

In our opinion, the sea bass looks exactly the way a fish should, with rather graceful body lines, tapered head and pronounced dorsal fins. As with most bottomfish, the color of the sea bass will vary depending on surrounding terrain. As a general rule, scale coloration will range from a dark blue or deep black to smokey brown.

It is possible to catch smaller sea bass from the coastal rivers and bays when using very light tackle, but for

heavy duty bottom fishing on the offshore grounds sturdy equipment is a must. Quite often the fish will be inhabiting waters of up to 200 feet in depth and to reach, and hold bottom, sinkers of up to 10 or 12 ounces are necessary.

The IGFA 20 pound line class record for black sea bass, a whopper weighing 9 pounds even, was taken at Montauk, New York in October of 1983 by Salvatore Vicari.

On December 8, 1985, Rocco Zara of Freehold, New Jersey caught an eight pounder when fishing a wreck off the Jersey Coast. Zara was aboard the Brielle party boat Jamaica when he caught his big humpback, which has been recognized as the IGFA 30 pound line class record. Ironically, when Zara caught the big fish he also had a second one weighing 5 lbs. to make a double header he will long remember.

It is rather obvious that fish the size taken by Zara and Vicari are not at all common. Any time you latch onto a sea bass that weighs an honest four pounds you'll have bragging rights and any sea bass larger than six pounds warrants a visit to the local taxidermist.

Most experiencd sea bass fishermen will kick off their season shortly after the first week of May. In some areas the fish may move inshore a week or two sooner and in the more northerly waters, the inshore migration does not occur until mid or late May. Good sea bass fishing will normally continue throughout the summer months and may last until late in October or into November during years when the weather is particularly mild.

The fish travel in schools, usually comprised of fish measuring approximately the same size. Larger humpbacks will be found in very small groups while the little pin size bass will move about in larger schools as they hunt for food.

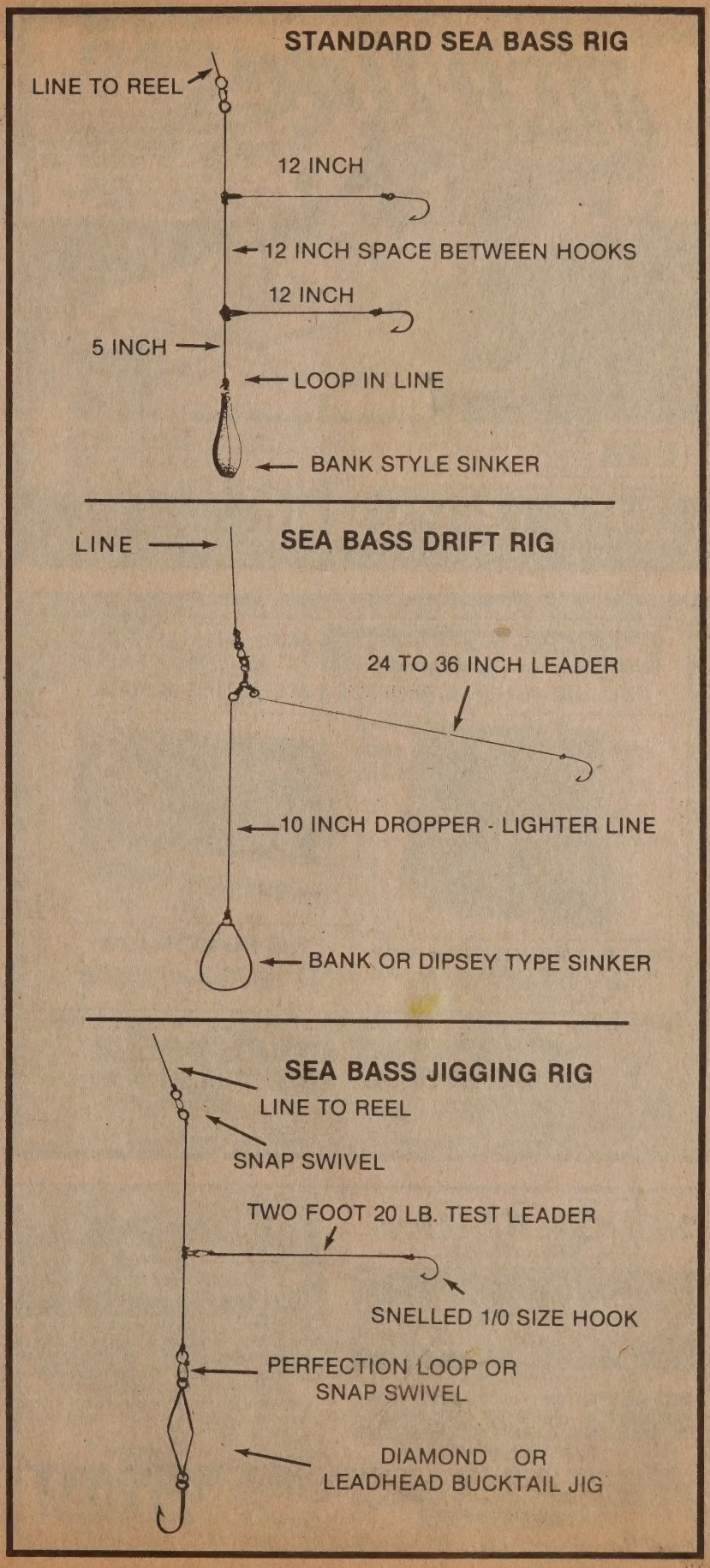
Being very aggressive, sea bass will attack most anything they can catch and swallow. Smaller baitfish, eels, crabs, clam, sea worms and squid are popular offerings and most any kind of strip bait will produce equally good catches when the bass are actively feeding.

Fluke fishermen often "luck" into some excellent sea bass catches when drifting over mussel beds or rocky bottom grounds. Sea bass inhabiting these areas will follow a drifting bait and attack it much like a striped bass or weakfish, by hitting hard and usually getting hooked from the force of their attack.

The best sea bass fishing, however, is enjoyed by bottom fishermen who anchor on structure areas. As noted, wrecks are prime sea bass haunts, but rocky bottom grounds, mussel beds, lumps, ridges and other structure that harbors a ready food supply will also provide some superb angling opportunities.

Because of its food value, the sea

(Continued on next page.)



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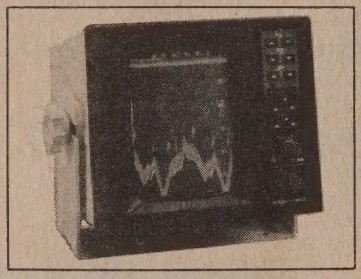
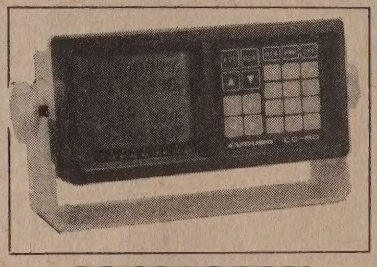
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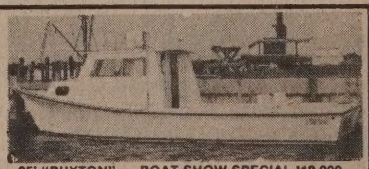
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bass gets some pressure from commercial fishermen who often set "pots" or traps similar to those used by lobster fishermen. The sea bass will enter the traps to eat whatever bait is available, but can't escape once they've passed the funnel of the net which forms the front or rear of the trap.

Most sea bass specialists use a variety of entirely different rigs when fishing inshore, offshore or river and bay waters. As expected, the rigs that produce when fishing deep water wrecks or structure do not necessarily put fish in the cooler when working shallow water zones.

Some fishermen will use a two hook rig while others may elect to go with a lure and bait or just a single hook setup to utilize larger strip baits. As with most any kind of saltwater fishing, there are literally hundreds of different rigs and most will catch some fish if used correctly.

Those we have selected to accompany this article have been used successfully for many, many years and will continue to produce good catches for anyone who puts them to use.

Standard Two Hook Bottom Rig: Most of the mates on party or charter boats will recommend this type rig for first-timers because it is extremely effective when fishing broken bottom grounds or sunken wrecks. Easily tied, the two hook rig is built around a three foot section of *stiff* 30 pound test leader material.

To construct the rig, start off by tying a loop at one end of the material. This is where you'll attach the sinker. The loop can be formed by doubling the leader back on itself and then tying a surgeon's knot or by making a regular perfection loop. Make sure the loop is large enough to pass through the eye of an 8 to 12 ounce sinker. To connect the sinker you simply push the loop through and around the sinker.

A second loop is then tied in five inches above the end of the leader. To this attach a 1/0 short shank hook to which a 12 inch leader has been snelled.

Twelve inches above the bottom hook, make another loop and attach your second hook (also with a 12 inch snell) so it lays off from the main leader.

You can finish off the rig by attaching a barrel swivel at the remaining end of the leader or by simply tying in another perfection loop.

This rig is used with small strips of clam or squid or may be used when fishing live killies, fiddler or green crab or when using strips of fresh caught fish.

Sea Bass Drift Rig: A lot of fishermen prefer to drift rather than fish at anchor. The basic reasoning behind this thinking is that fluke often inhabit identical areas as do the sea bass and by using a drift rig it is occasionally possible to catch both species.

The drift rig is actually a regular fluke rig utilizing a smaller size short

shank hook. It is very popular among anglers who fish the coastal rivers and bays for it increases their chances of catching both species. Most experienced sea bass fishermen who use this type bottom rig will bait with a strip of fluke belly or squid or will use a small live killie or sand eel.

Again, a three foot piece of *stiff* leader material is the basic component. Start off by snelling a 1/0 or 2/0 short shank hook to the end of a piece of 15 or 20 pound leader. Next, attach a small three way swivel at the opposite end of the leader. We prefer a clinch knot to tie the three way, but others find a perfection loop is equally effective.

You can use a short length of lighter test monofilament to make a dropper off the three way or just rig it with a standard connector to attach your sinker. For most estuary fishing you will be using sinkers of less than three ounces.

The remaining eye of the three way is for your running line which can be tied direct when using revolving spool reels or via a snap swivel when using spinning reels which can, and do cause some line twist.

Jigging Rig for Sea Bass: In recent years, many fishermen have discovered sea bass will attack a diamond jig with a vengeance and with each passing season more and more bottom fishermen are carrying a few diamonds along when planning a trip to the offshore waters where larger sea bass are normally found.

Really nothing more than a standard 3 or 4 ounce diamond jig attached to the end of a two foot section of leader, the diamond jig rig is extremely effective when fishing wrecks and structure areas where the sea bass are moving in tightly packed schools. The diamond jigging rig can be used as a single or with a second hook that is baited with a strip of squid.

Start off by tying the diamond jig directly to the end of the leader. A clinch knot will hold, but if you prefer using a snap to attach the diamond that, too, is okay. Remember, however, that too large a snap and you can cause the jig to double back on the leader as it is being lifted and dropped.

To tie in the bait hook form a small loop in the leader so you can insert the looped end of a snelled hook (1/0 or 2/0). After pushing the loop of the snelled hook through the leader loop, make a single overhand knot in the leader so the hook cannot slide up or down the leader and tangle with the diamond jig.

Sea bass are excellent to eat. As with most species that inhabit the deep bottom waters, they have a firm white flesh that carries a very delicate flavor. Due to their diet which includes clams, mussels, crabs and lobster, the sea bass is among the most highly prized bottom fish and should be treated as such. Pan fried, broiled, steamed or baked, they are a seafood treat that will satisfy even the most demanding gourmet.

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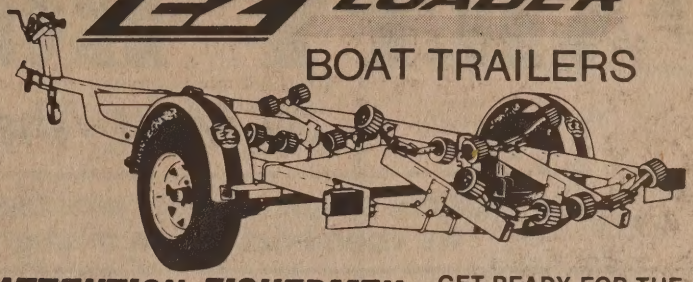

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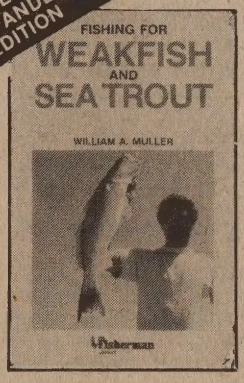

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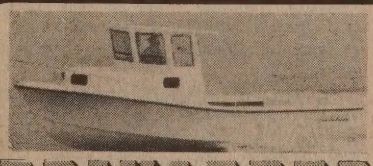

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A CALENDAR FOR PARTY BOATERS

by Matt Ahern

Our resident sinker bouncer provides a general timetable for open boat action through the season.

To begin, let's keep it honest.

I first wrote a similar article 10 or 11 years ago. Then, six or seven years ago I repeated it because of scores of requests to do so. And three years ago, I did so again. Yet requests for another repeat have not diminished one bit. Several times a week fishermen write and ask for a "rundown" "Just as quickly as you can, Matt."

So, to keep everyone happy, here's a modified version of that popular party boat fishing calendar. I suggest all interested fishermen copy what is important to them and squirrel it away for future reference.

You know, fellers, there are times when I don't know how I can talk myself into doing the things I do. Wouldn't you think I'd be content to write my weekly articles and stories for The Fisherman, then take time out to reply to multitudes of correspondence those articles and stories generate? And go fishing, of course. You'd think this would be enough for one beat-up old fisherman to take care of.

At times I sigh and give myself a mental kick in the pants, for I must agree that the extra work I talk myself into often sits like a stone on my brain. Why, then, do I do it? Beats me. I suppose, though, when fishing is involved I'm all for it.

For instance, what initially started out as a routine request for information on party boat fishing turned out as a project requiring hours to complete. I lay the blame for this on a letter sent to me by Dave Osborn of Worcester, NY (which is about 200 miles from Manhattan). Dave, of course, is entirely innocent.

Because I file all readers' letters, I'm able to quote directly from Mr. Osborn's letter. Dave wrote in part: "Matt, I guess it is hard for you to believe that I'm a party boat fan from way back, but I am...even if I do live in this upstate farming community. My son and I love party boat fishing and we often make a half dozen trips a year out of Sheepshead Bay, Freeport and Captree—and sometimes Montauk. The hitch is this: when we decide to go codfishing, blackfishing, or whatever, we find we are often too late, or too early (seasonwise) for the best fishing. Can you send us some kind of schedule as to when these fish arrive and depart, so that we don't have to drive 400 to 500 miles for nothing?"

And here Mr. Osborn included a list: cod, blackfish, ling, whiting, sea bass, porgies, fluke and mackerel.

Now, on the surface, the answer to this request seemed like duck soup—nothing to it. Sure, I thought it might take a little doing to compile such a list; but heck, in 15 minutes I would have it in black and white. Famous last words!

The first thing to do, I told myself, is to take each fish of interest and jot down what long experience has shown to be its arrival and departure date. Shucks—I wouldn't even have to go over my records for that. This was second nature for me. Why, with some of these fish—mackerel, for instance—I could tell Mr. Osborn the exact dates.

And I almost caught myself doing it!

But then a "voice" from somewhere in the deep recesses of my mind whispered: "How can you do that? How can you be so certain? Remember that spring when the macks showed up two weeks ahead of schedule, stayed one week and left overnight?

Um-m-m-m...I could see problems on the horizon.

Well...only one thing to do. I shrugged my stopped but manly shoulders, went to the "vault" where I keep all my fishing records (dating back to the late 20s), and added those more current, placed them on the good old desk, cleaned the good old reading glasses, sharpened the good old pencil, made a pot of good old coffee—and went to work. It was then 8PM.

When I'd finished, I had consumed three pots of that good old coffee and it was 2:30 AM. My weary head was bloody but unbowed. I had it! A concise record of the arrival and departure times of all those bottom feeders Mr. Osborn requested lay before me. As there was no one awake to pat me on the back, I did it myself, for I felt I'd done my duty to the fishing game.

But when I retired, I found I couldn't sleep. Maybe, that inner "voice" nagged, maybe if you included New England and New Jersey, the subject would make a good article in The Fisherman, for surely other fishermen who frequent party boats must have the same problem at times.

And that's what I did the following morning. It took more doing, but it mattered not. If it has anything to do with fishing, I'm all for it. The following is what I've discovered about the arrival and departure times of our most important bottom feeding fish. (I've included mackerel, too, because these scrappers are most popular with many of us.)

January: For New York and New Jersey sinker bouncers, there isn't much doing on the fishing scene this month. Ling and whiting are available during the early part of the month, and party boat skippers are willing to try when enough fishermen make it worthwhile to sail. Codfishing now has its "ups and downs," but on quiet, calm days some will be caught. Slow going for New England fishermen.

February: About the same conditions exist this month as last. Look for improved cod action on days when fishing can be done in comfort. Ling and whiting available, too, but not in record breaking numbers. Most New England fishermen are content to relive past experiences.

March: More cod available for New York and New Jersey sinker bouncers, but this is most likely due to the moderating weather which enables more fishermen to get out. To prove water temperatures are quickly changing, an occasional blackfish will be taken. Expect a few ling to come over the rail. New England fishermen will find cod when weather permits.

April: New York and New Jersey fishermen will now find fewer cod when fishing south and west of Montauk. Montauk cod catches definitely on the increase. Some reports of snowshoe flounder by month's end if weather has moderated; if not, wait until early next month. Blackfishing vastly improved. Ling and whiting on the increase. To prove summer is on its way, sea porgies will be taken in commercial traps, but none as yet for the sport fisherman. New York and New Jersey anglers will hear rumors of approaching mackerel schools—but don't rush the season! It will avail you naught!

Massachusetts anglers will find

cod. Haddock available, but no record catches as in past years. Cod and pollock for Rhode Island fishermen, with a few blackfish putting in an appearance by mid-month. Connecticut fishermen enjoy blackfishing and an increase in large flounder. Ditto cod and pollock.

May: This is the month fishing breaks wide open! Mackerel, mackerel and more mackerel for New York and New Jersey anglers—most action in the New York Bight. Ling and whiting on bottom. Take your pick. Blackfish available. An occasional porgy for New York anglers, but New Jersey fishermen will be doing much better with porgies and sea bass this month than New Yorkers. An occasional fluke will come aboard. Good codfishing at Montauk; fair to good pollock action.

June: Except for dearth of mackerel, New York and New Jersey fishermen will find this month a repeat of May. An increase in blackfish for New Jersey anglers, but fewer ling available—except in the New York Bight areas. Plenty of ling, however, for New Yorkers fishing Long Island's wrecks, and also to the 100 foot depths. Whiting available on the black can side of Ambrose Channel and east of Sandy Hook. Porgies filtering through in the New York Bight areas. Some good catches on the Tin Can Grounds. Expect a few fluke as they migrate to warmer inshore waters. A good increase in these fish by month's end. Good codfishing at Montauk. New England fishermen will find a repeat of last month, plus mackerel.

July: Good catches of porgies, sea bass and fluke for New Jersey fishermen. Fair to good for New Yorkers. Ling fishing is good on the Cholera Bank "high-spots" for Long Island sinker bouncers. Local wrecks and rock piles produce sea bass and porgies. Sandy Hook and inshore Sea Bright rocky areas play host to fluke; a sprinkling of doormats can be expected. Drifting off Long Island's south shore ocean beaches puts fluke in the bucket. Montauk codfishing holding up. Poor blackfishing this month—except for knowledgeable skippers specializing in this fishing along the New Jersey Coast.

New England fishermen find July's catches duplicating the previous month, with lessening mackerel action for Connecticut and Rhode Island anglers as the fish migrate north. Massachusetts sees much mackerel action.

August: New York and New Jersey anglers find the same bill of fare as July. Few ling available on the offshore grounds. Increased porgy action at Montauk. New Jersey fishermen can expect an increase in the fluke action.

New England fishermen now find some fluke available (usually catch as catch can most times, except for Connecticut anglers who often reap a harvest this month). Blackfish in Connecticut now found in deeper water; fluke along with them, feeding on the abundant bergalls.

September: New York and New Jersey specialists now find migrating doormat fluke on the offshore wrecks. Porgy fishing fair to good in Long Island waters. Sea bass in the New York Bight area begin to taper off during the third week of the month, with the best fishing along the New Jersey Coast and in the Montauk area. Wrecks and reefs in these spots produce well. Blackfishing slow—not many large fish yet.

New England waters provide good blackfishing for Connecticut anglers. Rhode Island fishermen enjoy good bottom fishing action. Codfishing in Massachusetts is good, but pollock thinning out.

October: Fluke fishing fair for New Jersey anglers, but definitely over for New York fans. Fluke caught are good sized. Porgies still provide action for New York and New Jersey anglers, but migrations begin by month's end. Ditto sea bass—especially in New York waters proper. Shinnecock and Montauk produce sea bass well until early November—or until first coastal line storm. Blackfish on tap, especially toward month's end. (Sometimes as early as mid-month.)

New England fishermen find identical action as New Yorkers, with the exception of Connecticut anglers who find blackfish willing biters.

November: Winter cod run under way by end of first week for New York and New Jersey fans; slow at first and then rapidly increasing as days pass. Whiting on tap for New York and New Jersey fishermen when water temperatures fall. Some ling for New Jersey anglers. Blackfishing good for several weeks, then decreasing as December approaches. Mackerel schools passing by offshore on return run from New England's summering waters. Cod reaching 30 lbs. by month's end.

December: Whiting and ling can be expected by New York and New Jersey fans (again depending on water temperature). Cod are now more plentiful, some to 40 lbs. plus, then tapering off just before the New Year.

Weather is now the deciding factor for New England fishermen. Massachusetts offers good codfishing. Ditto for Rhode Island and Connecticut fishermen. Blackfishing in these waters goes into rapid decline as cold water grips the offshore grounds.

And there you have it: party boat fishing as I have known it for many, many years (60). I am aware that some fish activity may have been overlooked, but what I have given you is of most interest to local fishermen. The coming and going of those fish listed is not infallible, its scope is extremely broad and Nature too uncertain for a mere fisherman to claim pinpoint accuracy. But for party boat fishermen seeking general knowledge of offshore party boat activity, this calendar will be found accurate enough for all purposes.

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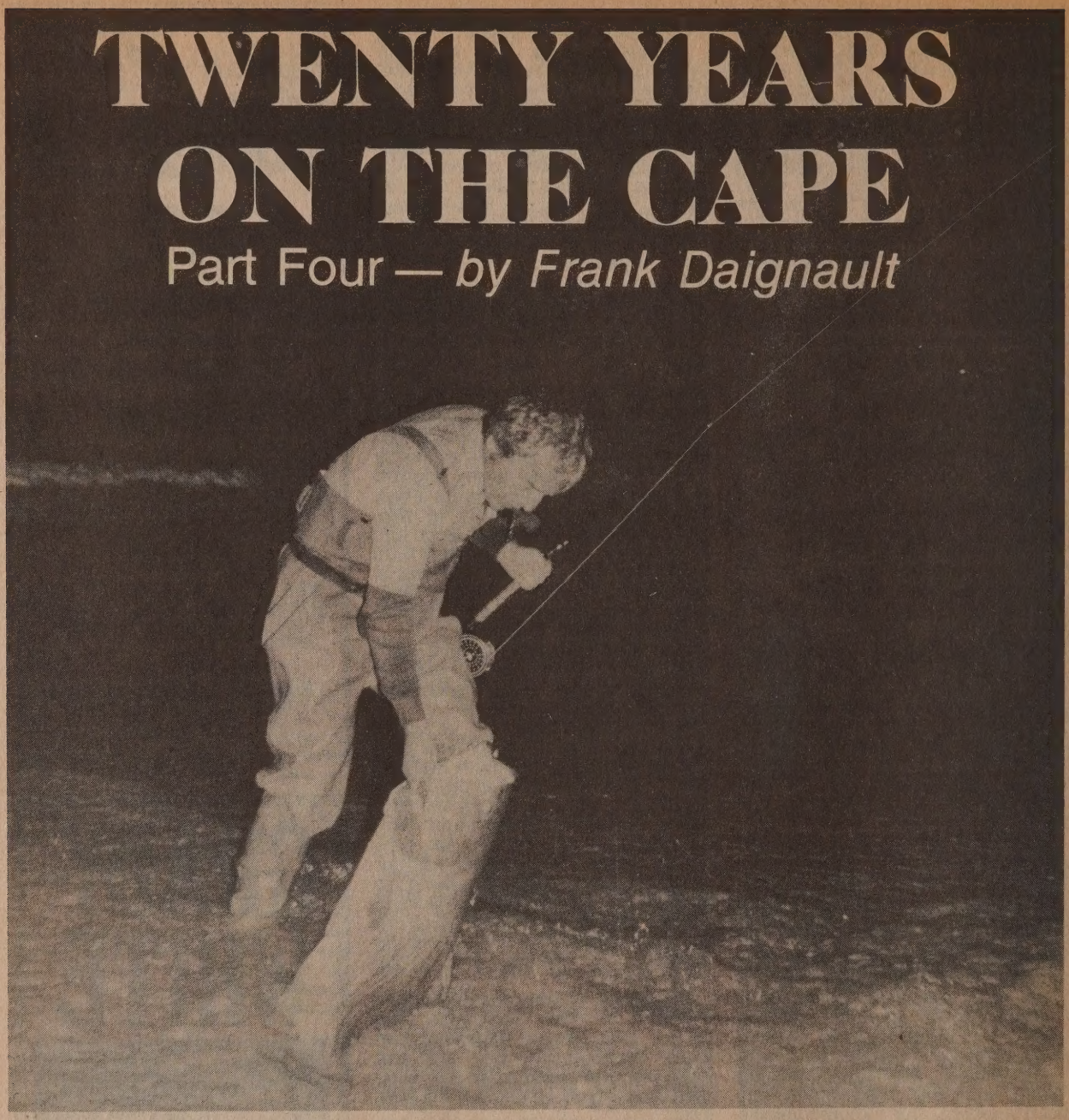
TWENTY YEARS ON THE CAPE

Part Four — *by Frank Daignault*



By definition, a "blitz" is when a whole lot of fish and a good number of fishermen get together to slug it out. Most blitzes have a duration of a night or two, though they often can go for up to a week. The one we will speak of here lasted for nearly a season.

We jump started the camper Memorial Day weekend in P-Town after it had sat in a friend's yard all winter. Wind was east and the Race City surf was big and dirty. Prognosis for the weekend was poor, but there was a season to start, old friends to greet, a mouse that had moved into the camper during the winter to kick out, and a gas bottle for cooking and lights to be changed. Fishing was the furthest thing from my mind. I was under the truck with a flashlight in my teeth, slightly disoriented, trying to envision which way to go with a wrench on an LP pigtail which looses clockwise, when John Valentine came over to say hello—all I needed. What you have to know about John is that he has an imperfection in his speech which causes him to stammer when he is excited about striped bass. (Perhaps other forms of excitement also cause this, but our interaction was always over stripers.) After all the usual pre-season pleasantries, which we both sought to get out of the way for different reasons, John started: "Wwwwhen you get sqqquared away, Frank, you ought to get up to the Rrrrrace 'cause they're getting a, a, a, lotta. . .a, a, a bbbbass!" I crossed the threads on the connection, squirted LP into the damp air, fixed it, and yelled "saddle up" to a wife who was waiting to fix dinner and a lone daughter, Sandra, who hadn't yet run off to see her friends.

We had to run the back track because the Traps had been cut away by the storm. When we cleared the trail under the lighthouse, it was wall to wall buggies, some casters on, others taking fish off. Huge sweeps rolled around the corner from the east, the kind of water, when you are ankle deep, that can kill you. But the wind carried your plug deep into a humping Race where you could throw the clutch after it hit and feel it drum until a bass clamped his maw down on it. Nothing to it: I had three, Mom three, Sandra two, top fish around 25. Every time one of us hooked up, Valentine, who had knocked a few fish on the head himself, would say, "Ttttold ya." It wasn't a bad night, considering that no one had seen a striper in P-Town yet that '77 season.

All weekends in June produced fish, the details of which, when spoken of in this context, can be skipped. But we did have a trip, the last one before going to the Cape for the summer, when Joyce and I beached 72 bass in 2½ nights for a total of 1200 pounds; even at 42 cents per pound, we folded some green. I half figured that by the time school let out that the hordes of P-Town stripers would have moved on north, or wherever. They didn't.

Up to that point, for all the stripers that had been caught, most were teen fish and 20s, with precious few that went 40 and virtually none over 50. The absence of big fish had become a growing source of consternation for all of us. It was not until the first week in July that we started taking 40s and I think, out of 100 surfmen, there was a pair of 50s. But what was beginning to really hit home in this surfcasting Mecca, this last stronghold of the squidder, where a deep source of personal pride was to continue to fish the beach in spite of traditional, money-making kills done from boats, was that the boats were dying. You see, up until maybe the year before, the real striper fishing there had always been in boats. There were a handful of us holdouts on the beach, getting hernias with bluefish, but if you wanted to unload some money fish at the dock, you went in the boat. Believe me, I lost a lot of fine comrades who couldn't take the strain of seeing those boatmen driving to town with linesides. What made it worse was that when a boatman had fish he would drive in with his tailgate down displaying the things— a gesture no surfcaster with half a brain would venture. Stupid as it may be for a surfcaster to subjectively compete with them, every one of us secretly had wished for years that we could catch the bass that boatmen caught routinely. Was there a God in the heavens that had suddenly answered our prayers? Is there a modicum of justice somewhere in our galaxy that says we were entitled to one striper season where we could kick the boatman's ass? 1977, and it was delicious!

There is an extra burst of available energy that comes from knowing that the fish are somewhere—and it only comes to real, knowing surfmen. It is not enough to try every place; you have to test them at the right tide, with killing offers. All the time that you are cranking on the reel you sniff, listen and watch. But if you did that, sunset to sunrise, Race Point to Highland Light, your buggy would be so loaded with bass, big bass, that you could make more money than working. One night I gillied for Joyce and the twins under Highland to the tune of 600 lbs. of fish that went from 35 to 48 lbs. without ever making a cast myself: not one other fisherman within miles. When we dropped the girls off, high school age by then, we checked the Traps only to find that we had missed much of the real fishing. Every buggy had their boxes topped

Mom got her first "fifty."

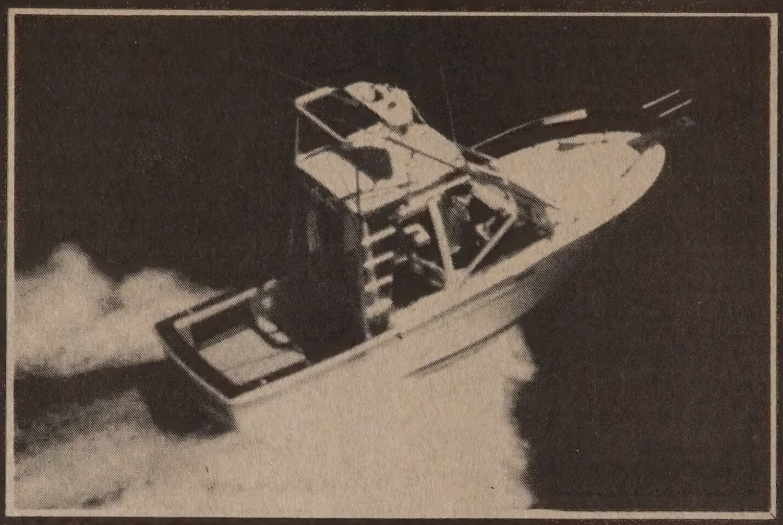
off with a mix of 40 pounders and teen sized bluefish. I'll never forget Joe Croteau's little square Scout that couldn't move in low gear. However, that night I had not yet fished and walked into cows rolling in the suds with a fresh fishing hand. Both Joe and Joyce, exhausted, sat on the tailgate applauding every time I hooked up, themselves drunk with the feel of full fish boxes. You know, you can catch only so many fish for so many years before some new element is needed.

One late night, July 27th, big bass were in the shallows off of Race Bar at low tide. Water was flat and you could see their tails when they dug for sand eels, one here, one there, from the bar almost to the Traps, a good 2,000 feet. Just about all the regulars were there and the complaint about them not taking anything was universal: Rebels, live eels, rigged eels, Pikies, Atoms. Moreover, this stuff was being fished by killers like Carlezon, Mendola, and many more that space does not permit. My fly rod, a 9 foot salmon stick that paid off at times, was on the buggy roof. What could I lose? The first bass to take the fly weighed 43 lbs. However, the next fish ran off into the Race causing my 1498 Medalist drag to perform badly: the starting torque against the drag was so great that I feared the leader would break. However, once it began running, the spool turned so violently that the backing backlashed and broke down at the reel. Not only had I lost a great fish, but he had made off with my fly line. Had the 43 lber. been taken on a 15 lb. leader, instead of the 20 that I used, it would have been a fly fishing world record. Like today, I cared little of such things then. Anyway, all the next day was spent shopping for a suitable reel and line. The second night, when the bass showed in the same way, with all the same frustrations, I landed eight fish from 22 to 40 lbs. on the fly. The reason why I swagger and brag here is that the job was done before the eyes of the world's finest surfcasters who couldn't lure a touch and who knew so little of fly casting that they referred to my stuff as "trout tackle."

The great blitz was a localized gold rush that influenced some social change in P-Town. Prior to that time there had been few townies who fished the beach, except for George DeRosa and Al Weisberg. But when word spread of the kind of checks the beach fishermen were salting a lot of locals started calling in sick. I knew of

(Continued on next page.)

"BIMINI"



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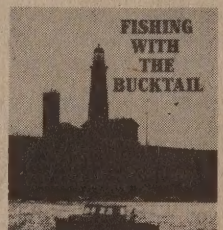

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two lumpers on the dock, who used to weigh our catches, who quit the dock to surfcast. By July the price had gone to $1 per pound and you only needed three fish per week to match a lumper's pay.

There is no central registry for 50 pound stripers. Thus, if the number of them alone is used as a measure of the fishing, results can be fraught with opinion or perception. In spite of this, a few things can be said to lend a feel for the situation. The 1964 Schaefer Salt Water Fishing Contest recorded under 30, 50 lb. plus fish for the entire coast with all methods: about a third were caught surfcasting, very few from the Cape. That year, I didn't know of more than ten, first-hand, taken from shore from '64 through '76. The great blitz, on the other hand, produced around 15 such fish in a two mile stretch of beach from Race Point east during the last ten days of July. At that, most were in the low 50s, with the exception of Tim Silva's 57 pounder. Keep in mind that estimated fish or "rounding" has no place here; 48s and 49s are not 50s. Joyce had one 50.6, and I had one 51. It was 40 lb. class stripers that dominated the catches. Average weight for the fish we caught that year was a calculated 22 lbs. But that figure was drastically lowered by a large number of fish under 20, over 12, taken in June, a size that we didn't see again that season. I recall one day at the dock in July when boxes, all stripers, were stacked four high, ten wide, 50 deep, which figures out to 200,000 pounds. This could have been up to two days of landings and no doubt represented fish from all over the Cape, including Billingsgate Shoals, which had a blitz of its own.

We hasten to point out here that the "Great Blitz" happened because it was reported. Perhaps on some distant beach, some unknown year, there was better. But before I reported it in Salt Water Sportsman a year later (see "Striper! The Last Hurrah," May, '78 issue), I was unable to find anyone who disagreed. Editor Frank Woolner, himself a lifetime Cape surfman, apparently had a similar experience. In an editorial note, that apparently anticipated some disbelief, he wrote: "...The old regulars who fished night tides said that nothing had touched it in 30 years." There are not many surfcasting years prior to 1947. Still, some New England reporters had doubts and I am told that photos were scrutinized for evidence of using old pictures. First, when would such old pictures have been taken? And, we are grateful that our '77 Seashore Park Permit sticker, inadvertently in view in one published photo, allayed all doubt.

Maybe the fishing that season was too good to be true. Can we criticize them for not believing when we were pinching ourselves? It was, after all, the kind of fishing that made you wish for grandchildren so that you could someday sit back and tell them what striper fishing used to be.

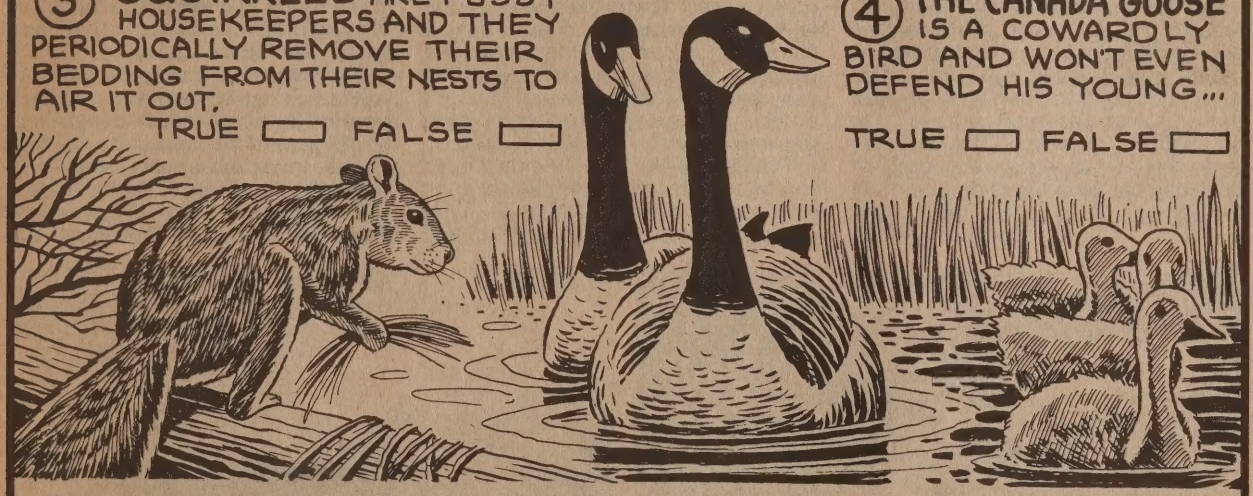
THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) SMALL CODFISH ARE OFTEN CALLED "ROCK COD" BECAUSE THEY TAKE ON THE COLOR OF THE BOTTOM... USUALLY: REDDISH ☐ GREENISH ☐ BLUEISH ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(2) MORE FISHERMEN CATCH MORE FISH THROUGH THE ICE THAN THE SAME LAKE YIELDS ON ITS BEST DAY IN THE SUMMER. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐



(3) SQUIRRELS ARE FUSSY HOUSEKEEPERS AND THEY PERIODICALLY REMOVE THEIR BEDDING FROM THEIR NESTS TO AIR IT OUT. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(4) THE CANADA GOOSE IS A COWARDLY BIRD AND WON'T EVEN DEFEND HIS YOUNG... TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(5) IN WHAT STATES ARE THESE FAMOUS TROUT STREAMS FOUND?

AUSABLE...
AU SABLE...
GUNNISON...
CLEARWATER...

(6) WHICH WAS THE BIGGEST AND RICHEST FISHING CONTEST HELD LAST SEASON ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, A READER ASKS US?

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1-REDDISH. 2-TRUE, BECAUSE OF GREATER CONCENTRATION OF FISH AND FISHERMEN. 3-TRUE. 4-FALSE. A HONKER WILL EVEN ATTACK A GROWN MAN APPROACHING HIS NEST. 5-AUSABLE, NEW YORK; AU SABLE, MICHIGAN; GUNNISON, COLORADO; CLEARWATER, IDAHO. 6-THE ARTHUR SMITH KING MACKEREL TOURNAMENT, SO. CAROLINA: 6,212 ANGLERS ON 244 BOATS FISH FOR $540,000 IN PRIZES!

WINTER MAINTENANCE:

ACCESSORIES

by Boyd Pfeiffer

Fishing accessories are often ignored in any winter tackle check, but need just as much attention as any other type of tackle. Accessories include almost anything that you use in your fishing: nets, pliers, fillet knives, scalers, gaffs, stringers, rod cases, terminal tackle and hooks, waders and boots, rod belts, tackle boxes, etc.

A look at some of these and possible maintenance repair includes:

Fishing pliers: Fishing pliers vary from the compound jaw "Sargent" type to the long nose pliers, but all can be affected by rust and corrosion during a year of fishing. Often pliers will get difficult to open as a result of this corrosion and must be freed up to be useful next season. The best way to do this and to remove the rust that develops between the sliding parts of the pliers is to soak them well, sprinkle with a powder kitchen cleanser and work the pliers back and forth until the cleanser removes the rust. Repeat until the pliers are completely loose and corrosion free.

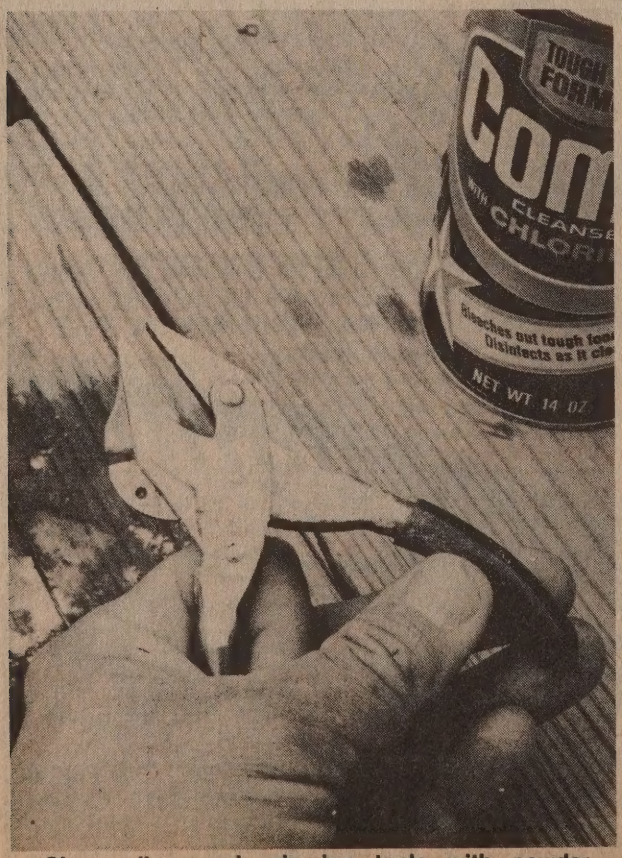
Then wash and rinse thoroughly, dry and spray with a demoisturizer. Oil or light grease is also good for lubricating the joints.

Fillet and bait knives: Use powder cleanser or steel wool to clean rust or corrosion from the blades of fillet knives. Be extremely careful to avoid cuts. Steel wool works well also on tough cases. Once the blade of the knife is completely clean, use a sharpener to sharpen the blade. The crock sticks or similar tools make this easy and allow sharpening at the right angle. Then spray with a demoisturizer and put away for next season.

Tackle Boxes: Most tackle boxes today by reputable companies such as Plano, Fenwick and Flambeau are sturdy, almost indestructible and worm proof to prevent damage from soft plastics. Most damage to tackle boxes is a result of trying to cram too much tackle into a compartment or tray, sometimes causing cracking in the lids of the satchel types. There is no cure—only prevention.

Plastic worms can cause problems even in worm proof boxes when they are mixed with other hard plastic lures that will cause the lures to become sticky and gummy. The best solution here is to try to salvage any of the lures possible, and wash out the tray or compartment with mineral spirits or lighter fluid.

Rust from hooks or metal lures in a tackle box can be removed with steel wool or an abrasive powder cleaner. At the same time, check the handles, hinges, trays and tray supports to be sure that they are working properly and not loose or weak. Weak or worn rivets that can occur in the tray sup-



Clean pliers and crimping tools with powder cleanser.

Use hand-held crocksticks to sharpen knives.

ports can be drilled out and replaced with new rivets or with pop style rivets.

Boots and waders: Boots for fishing can range from the chest high waders for the trout fisherman to the short calf height boots used on many boats along the Northeast Coast. In all cases, the care and repair is pretty much the same. First, wash out the boots with warm water, rinse thoroughly and hang upside down to dry. The thinner rubberized fabric used in hip boots and wader tops is susceptible to punctures. If punctures have occurred during last season, find them and repair them permanently with the kit that came with the wader or boots or with an automotive patch kit. The best repair for rubber waders and boots is to abrade the puncture area, coat with rubber cement, allow to dry tacky and apply the special patch that comes with the kit. Some waders and boots of other materials might have slightly different directions which should be followed closely.

Rubber boots are subject to oxidation and ozone damage. Ozoning is a reaction of oxygen with the rubber and can only occur if the boot is under stress (such as a rubber boot being folded or bent). This, in turn, results in tiny cracks which lead to slow leaks through these areas. The solution is to avoid this problem by proper wintertime storage. For this, there are two different opinions. One is to hang the boots upside down so that there will be no folds or stress to the boots. The other is to fold the boots gently, place them in a large bag, evacuate the air (a vacuum cleaner is good for this), seal the bag and store in a box until next fishing season.

Gaffs: Gaffs can become dull just as can hooks. Here the only care required is a quick wash and check for any possible handle or shaft damage and then a touch-up of the point, assuming, of course, that the point was properly sharpened and triangulated in the first place.

If not, or even in touch-up sharpening, use a medium file to sharpen the point into a triangular shape in cross section so that there will be three flat surfaces and three cutting edges to penetrate easily into any fish.

Nets: Check all nets for bends or cracks in the aluminum handles, damage at the yoke or joint of the handle with the net frame, and bending or warping of the frame itself. Looseness in the yoke/handle joint, for example, can often be tightened by tightening a screw or going to a larger sheet metal screw to hold these parts together. Sheet metal screws are often used for aluminum nets.

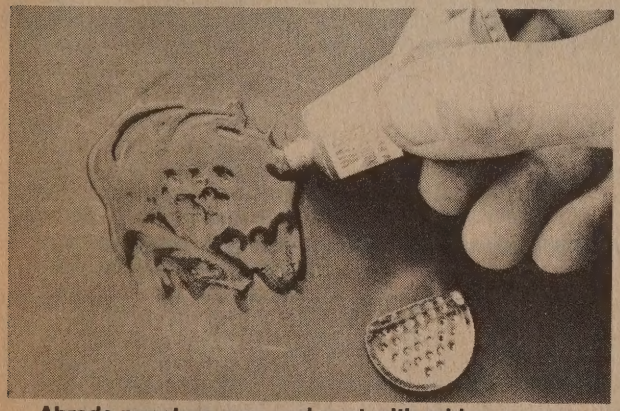
Check the net itself for any holes, rotting (seldom occurring thse days with nylon nets, bags), weakness or fraying. Sometimes fraying can be repaired by tying together ends of the net cord. If the net bag is at all questionable, remove it and replace it with a new bag. A new bag can be added by removing the frame from the handle and threading the new bag onto the frame, or by spiral wrapping the new net bag onto the frame with heavy nylon cord.

Stringers: Check these carefully for any weakness or damage to the hooks designed to hold the fish. Check swivels, the main cord and the clips. Replace individual parts or buy a new stringer if questionable.

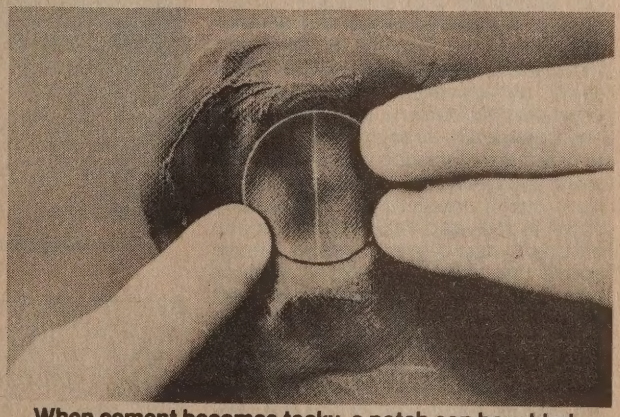
Rod cases: Aluminum rod cases with threaded caps can sometimes become corroded, especially around the threaded area where the anodizing wears thin. Polish these parts with steel wool and coat with candle wax or car polish to make opening and closing these cases easy this coming season.

Rod belts: Most rod belts for boat or surf fishing are made of nylon or synthetic materials today. Where they are, wash them thoroughly and hang up to dry completely before storing. Older rod belts of leather should be given several coats of Neat's Foot oil or leather dressing and then stored for next season.

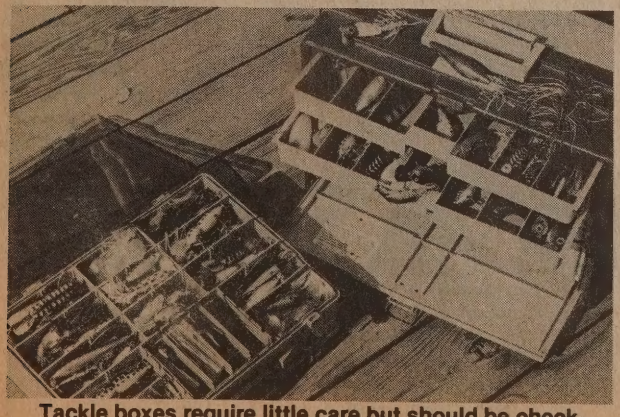
The important thing is to check, clean, refurbish and repair all fishing tackle now, when you have the time and before the rush of spring. A careful all out examination when you have the time to get spare parts and make repairs can head off any impending problems, save time and money later and keep gear working far longer for maximum efficiency and ultimate fishing fun.



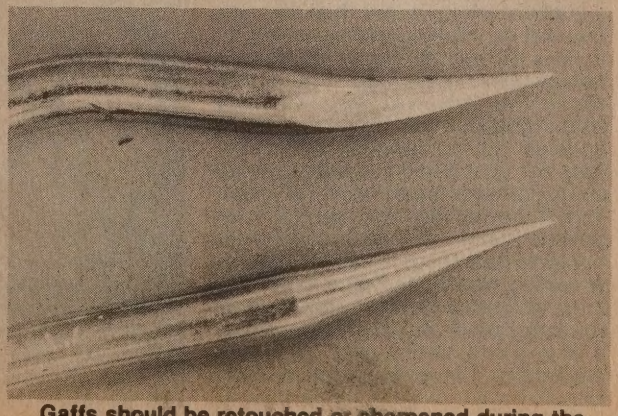
Abrade puncture area and coat with rubber cement.



When cement becomes tacky, a patch can be added.



Tackle boxes require little care but should be checked over.



Gaffs should be retouched or sharpened during the winter.

CUSTOM BUTT WRAPS: SPLIT DIAMONDS

by Ted Bingham

The patterns so far have all had a common denominator. The center of each has had a solid color surrounded by other solid diamond shapes. The process of splitting a diamond allows the center, and any of the outer bands, to be divided into two distinct colors. These two triangular halves, when joined, form an entire diamond. There are two types of split diamonds: split along the axis and split across the axis. When all is considered, they are probably the most important pattern in butt wrapping. Review almost any intricate design. Somewhere within, as a major construction point, you will find a split diamond.

Thread sequence, for both types of splits, is mandatory. Should a straight intersection between the two halves be desired, the threads must be wrapped one at a time.

Splitting a diamond across the axis is rather simple. As an example, let's use the colors blue and yellow. Complete a standard layout and spiral a blue thread to make the center cross. Picture this thread, where it crosses itself, as an infinitesimal diamond. What has to be done now is to place one color, only on top (toward the tip) and another, only on the bottom (toward the butt). This is accomplished by spiraling one yellow thread up and down to the right and ending it at the butt. We now have a yellow strand above the blue cross. Now, spiral a blue thread, up and down, to the left or below the center cross and end it. Return to the first step, yellow, and repeat the process until the desired size is obtained. Always place yellow on the right and blue to the left, one strand at a time. As the pattern grows, a distinct straight line between the two halves, will become apparent.

Now for something a little more complicated. Splitting a diamond along the axis involves two base wraps because the threads must be spiraled from different directions. This will enable the two separate colors to form on the sides of the blank. The layout is identical, with the exception that double stick tape is used on each end of the wrap. We will be wrapping one thread at a time, and only in one direction, either up or down the blank. For the sample, spiral a blue cross thread over the layout marks. From here the wrapping order is:

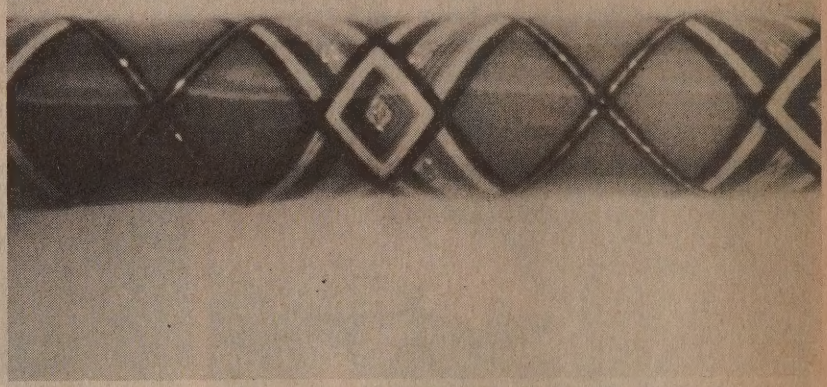
Yellow—up the blank to the *left* of the center thread.

Yellow—down the blank to the *right* of the center thread.

Blue—up the blank to the *right* of the center thread.

Blue—down the blank to the *left* of the center thread.

Return to the first step and repeat until the diamond is of adequate size. Now let's analyze what's happening. It takes four strands to encompass the center thread. One set crosses on top; the other set below the center cross. Think of the top and bottom as two separate wraps. Half the top wrap is yellow; the other, blue. Now, in order to get the bottom wraps yellow on the same side as the top, the order has to be reversed.



Placement of threads for an across the axis split diamond.

Placement of the threads for an along the axis split diamond.

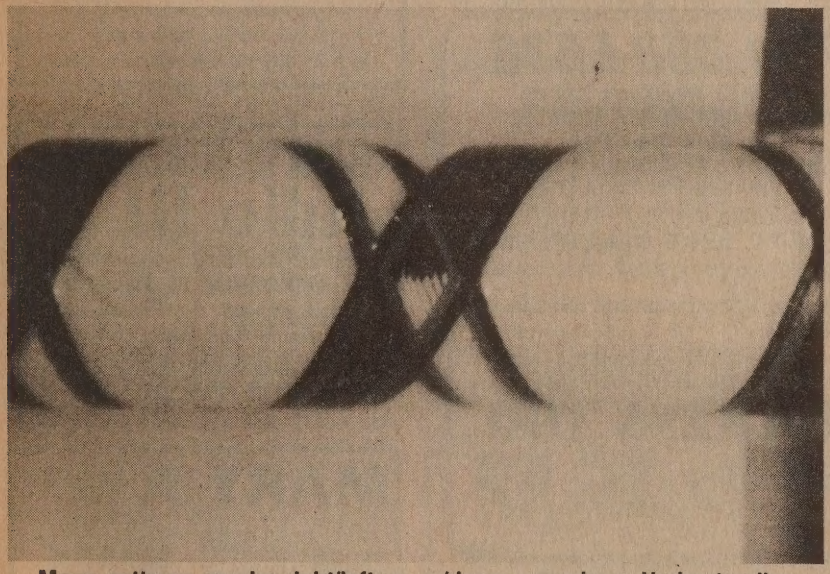
Another method, with the same results, is to spiral each color in one direction only. Spiral a yellow thread up the blank and end it. Where the yellow left off, begin the blue and spiral it down to the tape at the bottom. The sequence is now: yellow up, to the right; blue down, to the left. This also builds all four surrounding threads, but in a different order. The second example will not build the split above and below the center cross. The pattern will be formed by adding threads to the top of the center only. This means that your layout marks indicate the bottom of the split, not the center. The only other difference, between the two designs, is the formation of the color bands. The first example combines both colors in the bands; while the second produces solid bands, with a different color in each direction.

Both axial splits commonly utilize only the inner section of the pattern. That is, the first 10 threads are split and a standard diamond completes the design. Variations would include the reverse of that, such as a small center diamond with splits finishing the outside of the pattern. If you wish the pattern could be started with blue on the top and yellow on the bottom. Halfway through the wrapping procedure switch the colors, place the blue on the bottom and the yellow on top. They also can be started and ended, at any time during the pattern. The final change is to eliminate the straight separation line. A saw edge shaped line can be made by wrapping the design with two or more threads at the same time.

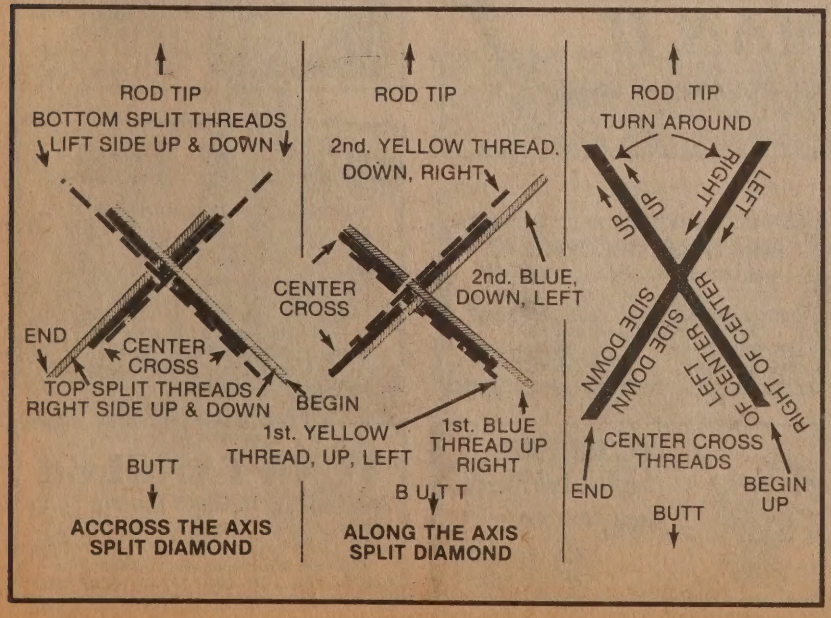
These and other patterns involve dual base wraps. It is now appropriate to take a look at some of the various types. The description given in the past was adequate for standard wraps. As we advance, more choices will be needed for both practical and aesthetic reasons. If you spend large amounts of time forming a beautiful and complex butt wrap you certainly don't want an unsightly blob on the end. This is exactly what happens at the base wrap all too often. The tip base wrap, if used, should slowly taper down to bare blank. The foregrip wrap should be level and not taper toward the grip. The problem that arises is that a smooth wrap must be placed over the bulk created by the butt wrap's tag ends. This bulk can be reduced immensely by using size A thread. All other methods involve working with the tag end threads. To taper the tip end start the base wrap with about 10 tight wraps and secure it with a tie-off loop and tape. Remove the tape holding the thread ends and comb them out. Apply two coats of color preserver and allow it to dry. When dried, the ends are cut on an angle, in a step fashion so they gradually taper toward the tip. By wrapping carefully and tightly, one overwrap should suffice. A second covering might be required if frays or under colors show through. This same principle can also be applied to the butt end. Another method for the butt, is to skip the preserver and cut the threads so they lay just short of the grip. Again, they are combed and flattened. Now they are frayed so they lay even smoother. Push any ends that are long enough under the grip. The base wrap is now done very slowly and the tag ends constantly repositioned to keep them flat. With about five wraps left, insert the tie-off loop and secure the wrap when it reaches the grip.

There is one other type of rarely used base wrap. It's a wrap that has no end, therefore, it does not require a base wrap. I call it a masochist's special. After the layout, the first thread is taped, in mid wrap and then spiraled up and down. The subsequent bands of thread serve as the tie downs and secure the taped end. The tape may now be removed. Two or three passes before a new color is to be added, a tie-off loop is inserted into the pattern. This allows the new color to be pulled under the existing wraps and held so that it can be spiraled. Each additional wrap reinforces the hold so it won't pull out. In lieu of tie-off loops, some craftsmen choose a sewing needle to begin or end a color. Leave all the tag ends in place. After the last thread has been secured they can assist you in tightening the design. When that has been accomplished they can be trimmed. This type pattern looks best if a large expanse of open blank shows at each end: it proves you didn't cheat. Speaking of cheating, there is a similar wrap where the butt wrap is completed and then the foregrip is placed on the rod concealing the base wrap. It almost appears the same as the original version.

Next week will be all fun as some novelty wraps are explored. Although somewhat difficult at first, spiraling flags on a blank is exciting.



Many patterns require right/left or up/down wrappings. Understanding each position is mandatory.



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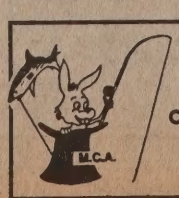

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East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

Things remain very quiet in these parts with virtually nothing in the way of fishing news emanating from Montauk or the South Fork.

MONTAUK

No recreational fishing taking place at the Point, but setliners continue to take some cod working south of the Point. The **Viking Fleet**, while not currently sailing does have its next Georges Bank trip slated for Friday, February 20th at 7PM. The boat will return on Sunday, February 22nd at midnight. Cost of the trip is $175 and reservations along with a $50 deposit are required. Call 668-5700 for more information.

SOUTH FORK

A call to Thom Speckenbach at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** in Southampton revealed that a few guys did sample the Shinnecock Canal this past week. None reported back and Thom seriously doubted that they did much of anything other than relieve some mid-winter blues. Most guys have been keeping busy with hunting. Thom suggested that if you have any plans for a custom rod or need to have

Henry Feeney who mates aboard the Sheepshead Bay Elsie K III, and his friend Bruce Simels with two of seven cod taken aboard the Captree open boat Speedy VII. Henry's largest fish took the pool for the day. It weighed 40 lbs.

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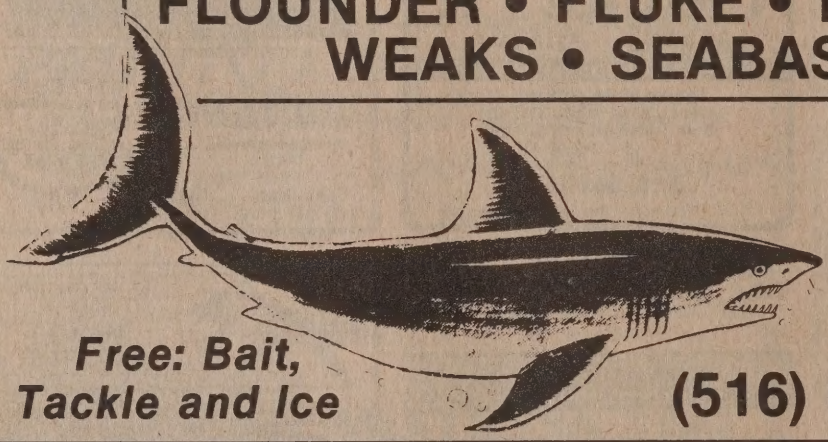

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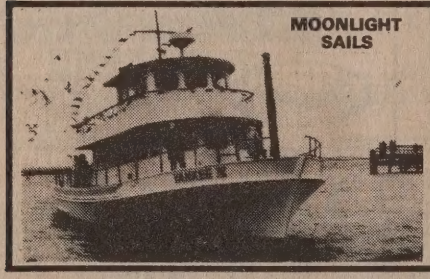

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South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

White perch, trout and a pick of cod make up the bulk of the current fishing scene. Trout and white perch have remained pretty reliable over the past several weeks. If cold weather fishing is not your cup of tea, you might want to visit the New York Sportsmen's Expo being held at Nassau Coliseum this week from Thursday through Sunday. The Fisherman will be there so stop by our booth and say hello. Besides Stu Miller and myself you'll have an opportunity to speak and meet with surf fishing expert John Fritz on Saturday and East End reporter Lorry Mangan on Sunday.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Lorry Mangan phoned me Monday morning to relay a report from Al Flexor of Al Feather's Lures. Al reported that fishing a tidal creek in Bellport one day early last week resulted in a 21½ inch striper, 8 small white perch and a 3 pound sea run

Mickey Saracco, age 7, with a fluke and a blue taken this past summer near the Fire Island Lighthouse in Great South Bay.

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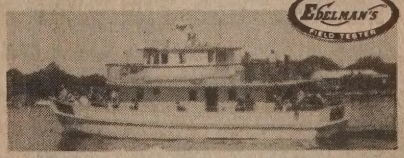

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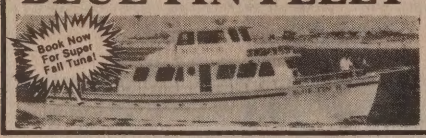

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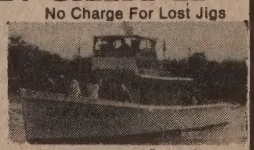

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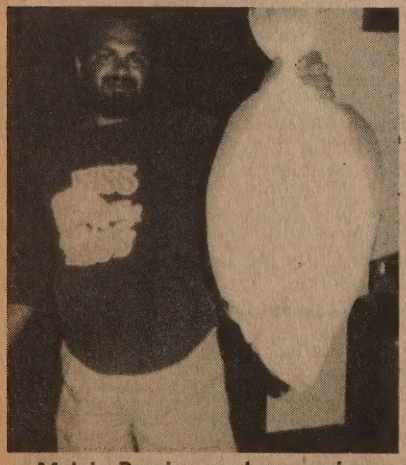
trout. All were taken on small Al Feather's Flash jigs. Tuesday and Wednesday were tough days for perch, but on Thursday, Al trekked up to Sunken Meadow where he caught 14 smallish perch. On Saturday, Al kept a dozen of 30 perch taken at Sunken Meadow and reported a catch of 25 perch for Mariano and Salvador Aquino.

Al Colban at **J&R Sports Center** in Oakdale said that lots of trout continue to entertain anglers at Bubbles and Rattles. Many of the fish are small, but there are a fair number of 1 to 3 pounders mixed in. Night crawlers have been accounting for some of the larger fish and the shop does have them in stock. Al knew that a few guys took advantage of last week's mild weather to pick a few flounder from deep holes in the state channel between Lindenhurst and Amityville. Some fairly decent perching in the Connetquot River on night crawlers and small spinners. One local youngster stopped by to show seven nice perch on Wednesday. He reported throwing back a dozen smaller fish. Decent numbers of tommy cod also being taken on worms in the river.

Captain George Tweedy of the Captree open boat **Capt. Scotty** reported that cod catches this past week ranged between 15 and 35 per trip. Fish ranged in size from small to large depending on the day. On Saturday, 25 cod in the 25 to 35 pound range came over the rail while other trips saw smaller fish dominate the catches. All the action continues to be on wrecks with very few dogfish in evidence. Sunday's catch amounted to 15 cod. The boat's cod derby is currently at $575.

Tom Healey at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** in Babylon said that a few guys tried white perch locally but none had anything to report for their efforts. A few guys took advantage of the nice weather last week and stopped in for flounder bait. None reported back,



Melvin Pereira used a spearing and fluke belly combo to take this 8½ lb. doormat near Sheepshead Bay. Subscriber photo.

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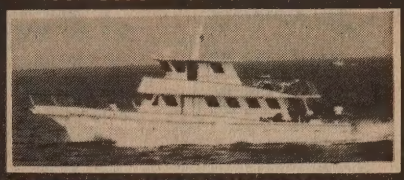

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however. Most of his customers have been keeping busy tinkering with their tackle. Tom reminded that now is the time to bring in any rods or reels that need servicing instead of waiting until the spring rush.

Speaking from **Edelman's** in Farmingdale, Frank Pristera reported that a few private boats managed catches of up to 5 cod on Saturday. All were taken on wrecks. Frank asked that we remind their customers to stop by the Edelman's Booth (L50 and L51) at the New York National Sportsman's Show being held at Jacob Javits Convetional Center January 29th to February 21st. He also reminded customers to look for the opening of their new Centereach store. Target date is February 15th.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Fair to decent cod catches were made all throughout the week with an excellent scattering of cows. Everything is still on the wrecks and doggies have not been any kind of problem this week. Even in Sunday's downpour, open boat customers had decent action. The Sheepshead Bay boats had some good days on blackfish, mackerel and whiting.

WEST END BAYS/ JONES INLET

We hear from Mike at **Causeway Bait and Tackle** in Wantagh that several days back, Fred Adelman bagged a 29 pound pool fish and that on Saturday of this past week fishing on the **Super Spray II** Hicksville angler John Kierney had a 12 and a 33 pound cod.

Captain Dick Hall of Freeport's **Super Spray II** told of fair to good codfishing this past week. On Thursday the three biggest cod ran 38, 35 and 30 pounds. The weekend was very worthwhile also. Saturday Brad Noble of Bell Harbor bagged 8 cod while Chris (no last name) hoisted a 38 pounder for pool honors (and money). Chris also had a 29 and a 30 pounder. In Sunday's downpour, Lloyd Fiedler and pal both of Oceanside had 7 cod to 30 pounds. Cliff Dnnette was happy with four cod to 28 pounds. Dow Morgese settled for four fish, while John Rossi was content to count eight cod in his bag. All action was on wrecks.

According to Captain Al Lindroth of the **Captain Al** sailing out of Point Lookout, Thursday's trip saw a good

BAIT & TACKLE

Twelve-year-old Jim Grambor and his dad, Greg, with blues taken this past fall on the New Rochelle based open boat, "Klondike."

number of cod taken of all different sizes from 3 pounds into the mid 20s. Friday's action saw six fares with 40 cod, with high hook 11 fish. Fish were mostly large on Wednesday, with Phil Carroll of Brooklyn hoisting a 32 and 33 pounder. Saturday's catch was excellent being over 70 cod. Jose Then of the Bronx took the pool with a 40 pounder while Russ Park of Poughkeepsie stuck a 30 pound fish. Ken Hejaducek boasted five to 28 pounds. Returning for a second Sunday in a row, Mark and Karen Fisher of Huntington teamed up to take a 40 lb. pool winner, with Karen catching and Mark mostly cheering her on. Also taking a 30 pounder was Mr. Hirashima of Bayside.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Aboard Sheepshead Bay's **Betty W IV** there were super mackerel catches had by all fares Saturday. Macks proved elusive Sunday but there were plenty of whiting caught in their place. Action both days was at Ambrose.

We learn from **Mike's Tackle** across from the fleet that blackfishing remained good this week at 17. John Togs hoisted 26, while Phil the Carpenter had 24. These blacks went to 8 pounds. Charlie on Saturday weighed in an 11 lb. 9 oz. black for Mike Samborsky, fishing on the **Pilot II**. Excellent macks at Ambrose Tower Saturday with whiting starting to really set up day and night, with Friday being the best of the week.

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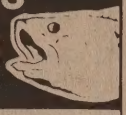

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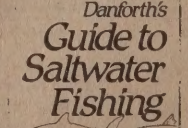

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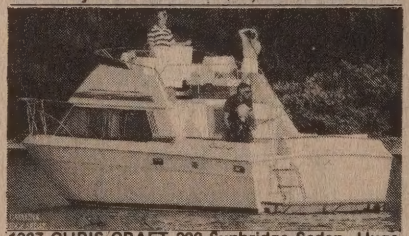

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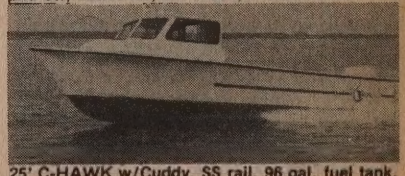

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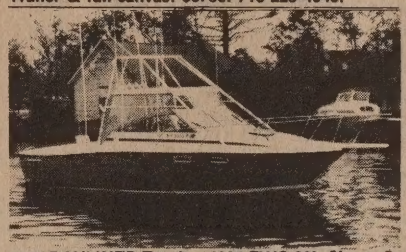

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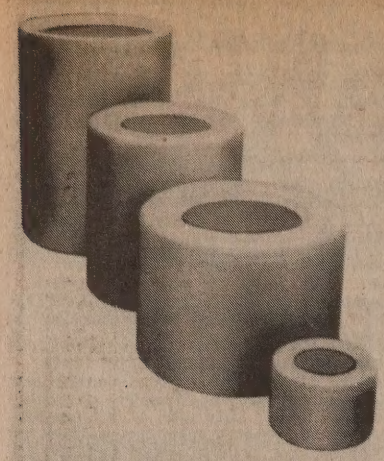

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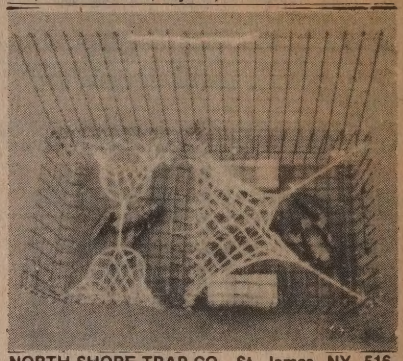

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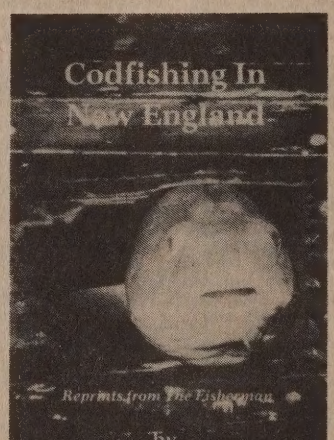

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THE Fisherman

TWO DENISON AVE., MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT 06355

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	12:20	12:30	1:05	1:20	12:50	12:55	2:00	2:20	3:30	3:55	3:35	4:05	12:25	12:45	1/22
FRI.	1:15	1:25	2:00	2:20	1:40	1:50	2:55	3:25	4:25	4:55	4:30	5:05	1:25	1:50	1/23
SAT.	2:20	2:35	3:05	3:25	2:40	3:00	3:55	4:30	5:25	6:00	5:35	6:15	2:25	2:55	1/24
SUN.	3:25	3:55	4:10	4:35	3:50	4:25	4:55	5:35	6:30	7:20	6:40	7:20	3:30	3:55	1/25
MON.	4:35	5:05	5:15	5:40	5:05	5:40	5:55	6:35	7:40	8:40	7:45	8:25	4:30	5:00	1/26
TUES.	5:35	6:05	6:20	6:45	6:05	6:40	6:50	7:30	8:55	9:50	8:45	9:25	5:30	5:55	1/27
WED.	6:30	7:00	7:15	7:40	7:05	7:35	7:50	8:25	10:00	10:50	9:45	10:20	6:20	6:45	1/28
THURS.	7:20	7:50	8:10	8:35	7:55	8:25	8:45	9:15	11:00	11:40	10:40	11:15	7:15	7:40	1/29

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 1/22	7:21	5:02
FRI. 1/23	7:21	5:03
SAT. 1/24	7:20	5:05
SUN. 1/25	7:20	5:06
MON. 1/26	7:19	5:07
TUE. 1/27	7:18	5:08
WED. 1/28	7:17	5:09

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 1/22	—	10:35AM
FRI. 1/23	12:45AM	11:00AM
SAT. 1/24	2:00AM	11:30AM
SUN. 1/25	3:20AM	12:10PM
MON. 1/26	4:40AM	1:05PM
TUE. 1/27	5:45AM	2:15PM
WED. 1/28	6:45AM	3:35PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
1/29	2/5	2/13	1/22

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	10:30	4:20	10:55	4:40
Fri.	11:10	5:00	11:40	5:25
Sat.	11:55	5:50	—	6:15
Sun.	12:30	6:40	12:50	7:15
Mon.	1:30	7:40	1:55	8:15
Tues.	2:30	8:45	2:55	9:15
Wed.	3:30	9:45	3:55	10:10
Thurs.	4:25	10:40	4:50	11:15

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FREEPORT: 165 Atlantic Ave., Freeport, N.Y. 11520, 516-868-6446
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